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THE
LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW
AND
MAGAZINE;

BY A
SOCIETY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

VOLUME THE THIRD:
INCLUDING FOUR MONTHLY NUMBERS,
FROM MARCH TO JUNE 1800.

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MDCCC.



P R E F A C E

TO THE

T H I R D V O L U M E.

THE early account that has been given in the successive Numbers of this Review of the various medical, surgical, and philosophical works recently published in different countries, has conduced to disseminate the information contained in those works, and not only proved advantageous to the science of Physic, but also contributed to spread the fame and celebrity of their respective authors; while the censure which the Editors have constantly passed on the effusions of ignorant and empirical men tends, in some measure, to repress the efforts of that class of writers.

Having added considerably to the number and size of the pages in each monthly portion of the Review, and promised, as materials increase, to make still further additions, the Editors have determined, at the suggestion of their Booksellers, to close their Volume at the end of every fourth, instead of every sixth Number. This arrangement will occasion to them a little more trouble and expense; but, as it will prevent the Volumes becoming too bulky and cumbrous, and consequently prove a convenience to the readers, this sacrifice will be abundantly compensated.

It gives the Editors great pleasure to find the satisfaction of their readers increasing as the work advances; of which they receive numerous and very flattering proofs. In return, they assure them no labour on their part shall be spared to make their Review as perfect as practicable; and as they are able to number among their friends some of the most active, as well as most

enlightened practitioners of the age, there can be little fear but the value of their work, and consequently its credit, will continue advancing with its age.

The Editors have prescribed to themselves no fixed limits for their review of new publications, nor for their correspondence; by which means they are occasionally enabled to insert communications transmitted to them towards the conclusion of the month. On the other hand, if few papers of that kind should be received in the course of any particular month, or should come too late for insertion, from the numerous valuable works in hand, and almost daily publishing, the Editors will always have sufficient materials to complete their number. This, however, is not said to damp, but rather to excite the ardour of their friends; and the Editors hope they shall never publish a Review without filling some of the niches with the lucubrations of their correspondents.

Numerous detached cases of importance to the Public would be entirely buried in oblivion, if there existed no convenient and respectable mode of introducing them to general notice: a narration of all such interesting matters, authenticated with real names, will find admission into the LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW AND MAGAZINE: they may be presented either in the form of a Letter addressed to the Editors, or as distinct Dissertations, Essays, or Treatises, according to the nature of the subject, and the taste of Correspondents. But, besides regular papers, it is presumed some gentlemen may be willing to send casual hints and imperfect memoirs. There are many practitioners who keep journals or minutes of extraordinary facts which come under their notice, who have not leisure or inclination for reducing their materials into a suitable state for publication: the Editors will thankfully receive copies of such casual suggestions, containing the material points to be recorded, and will take the charge of modifying them for the perusal of the Public.

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THE
LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW
AND
MAGAZINE.

VOL. III. N° XIII. MARCH MDCCC.

ANALYSIS OF BOOKS.

ART. I. *A Letter to the Right Honourable Lloyd Lord Kenyon, relative to some Conduct of the College of Physicians of London, posterior to the Decision of the Court of King's Bench in the Case of Dr. Stanger; and containing Observations on a principal Ground of that Decision.* By WILLIAM CHARLES WELLS, M.D. F.R.S. Octavo. 136 pages. London. 1799.

ABOVE four years ago, Dr. Christopher Stanger, of this metropolis, made oath, in the Court of King's Bench, that he had applied to the College of Physicians to be examined for admission into their order of candidates, and that this examination had been refused in consequence of a bye-law, which seemed contrary to the intention of the charter and acts of Parliament whereby their corporation had been established. A rule was therefore granted by the Court, for the College to shew cause why a mandamus should not issue to compel them to examine that physician: after which, Sir

George Baker, President of the College, and Mr. Roberts, their attorney, made affidavit to justify the refusal of admitting Dr. Stanger to an examination. In those affidavits it was stated that the College, by virtue of their charter, had from time to time prescribed certain qualifications or conditions, as requisite for the admission of persons into the commonalty, or fellowship, and into the order of candidates; that, by one of their statutes, no one could be admitted unless he were a doctor in medicine of Oxford or Cambridge; that Dr. Stanger was not a graduate of either of those universities; and that there were two bye-laws of the College by which licentiates of certain descriptions might be received into the fellowship, without previously entering into the order of candidates.

Dr. Wells states, that "the bye-law, which restricted admission into the order of candidates to the graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, had been decided by Lord Mansfield to be bad; and according to the confession of the counsel of the College, the two bye-laws, which allowed licentiates to enter the fellowship, had been framed in consequence of the censure passed by that judge upon the former system of admission, and of his recommendation that a more liberal one should be adopted. Their real defence, therefore, as having regard to the possible applications of persons in whom they could not pretend to find the smallest appearance of blame, rested entirely upon the two last-mentioned bye-laws: and one of the *new* bye-laws," says he, "certainly afforded no corrective to the evil of which that great man complained. The remaining bye-law was consequently the only source, from which such a corrective could be expected. It declared, that licentiates of seven years standing, and who had completed the thirty-sixth year of their age, might be admitted into the fellowship of the College, should they be found fit *upon examination*." Now the author of this Letter endeavours to "shew that this was the only measure of any importance the College had adopted for the purpose of removing the reproach which had

I

been

been thrown upon them by Lord Mansfield; and that it therefore afforded the only good ground for their resisting the issue of the mandamus which Dr. Stanger solicited." Accordingly Mr. Erskine, the leading counsel of the College, derived from this very law his chief reason against the proceeding of Dr. Stanger: for, he observed, if a physician who presents himself for examination, "has not studied at either of the universities, and can find one fellow in the College who knows any thing of him, and thinks him a fit person to be proposed, then this bye-law does not stand in his way."

Although an error, which was discovered in the mode of Dr. Stanger's application, put a stop to the proceedings, some conversation is said to have taken place in the Court between the judges and counsel; which proved that the conditions required by the bye-law for admitting licentiates into the College were deemed only as cautionary measures, designed to exclude improper persons, "and constantly supposed that if any licentiate of good character, and possessing the qualifications marked by the statute, could prevail upon a fellow to propose him, no obstacle would afterwards exist to his admission."

The first application of Dr. S. to the College having been shewn to be informal, he presented himself *a second time* for examination, in order to his admission as a fellow of their body: but, having been refused as before, a new trial ensued in May 1797; on which occasion Mr. Erskine again fixed on the same bye-law as the ground of his defence, urging, that "though a man had never seen either of the universities, yet if he can find out of the whole College of Physicians any one person who is a fellow of the College to usher him in for examination, he is entitled to undergo the ceremonies which the College has thought fit to prescribe, and he may be admitted." The ingenious counsel desired to set aside "the main improbability, that members of a learned body could league themselves in a conspiracy so base and so scandalous, as to refuse to examine a man proposed to them by one of their own order,

order, under their own laws, from a professional jealousy, lest they should be eclipsed by that person." Mr. Erskine concluded by assuring the Court, that "*he was certain*" if Dr. S. had applied to that body, as men of the first learning in every age had applied to it, "*he would have been admitted;*" and supposes the College to address all its candidates in the following words:—"If you are of the universities, we will examine you at once; if not of the universities, we do not refuse to examine you, but we consider it reasonable to point out the mode in which that examination should go forward." Dr. Wells mentions, that arguments founded on the same bye-law were employed by some other gentlemen in the Court to convince their opponents that the mandamus ought not to proceed: so that the willingness of the fellows to examine any individual, according to the specified conditions, seemed fully admitted; and even LORD KENYON himself had intimated, that although the College (which he denominates "*the sanctuary of honour and good faith*") are not bound to receive any person as a fellow, "*they are BOUND to examine.*"

After this introductory statement of Dr. Stanger's case, the author describes the conduct which the College recently pursued when an application was made for his own examination. We shall here give Dr. Wells's account of himself, in as concise a form as possible, without offering any reflections thereon. When he had perused Mr. Gurney's notes of the proceedings above alluded to, he says, "I determined to apply for an examination of my own fitness to be a fellow of the College, whatever reason I might have for being fearful of its issue, rather than allow the grounds of the decision to run any hazard of being forgotten, from want of an early appeal to them. I mentioned this intention to two of my friends among the fellows, Dr. David Pitcairn, and Dr. Matthew Baillie; who, by immediately offering to propose me, removed the first, and, in the opinion of the judges of the Court of King's Bench, the only difficulty in the way of obtaining my object,

object. On the 29th of September 1797, a motion was accordingly made at the College by Dr. Pitcairn, and seconded by Dr. Baillie, not that I should be admitted a fellow, but merely that I should be examined concerning my fitness to become one hereafter. If your Lordship's surprise would have been excited, as surely it must, by any opposition whatever to this proposal, to what height will it be carried, when you learn the ground of that which was actually made? Could your Lordship have even imagined, that a bye-law of the College of Physicians, which, by the declaration of their counsel in the Court of King's Bench, had been framed in 1778, with the best legal advice this country could afford, for the express purpose of removing the blame which had been thrown upon them by Lord Mansfield; that a bye-law, which, if before forgotten, had been recalled to their recollection in 1789, by an application under it from Dr. Sims; that a bye-law, to whose existence they had twice sworn before your Lordship, once in April 1796, and again in January 1797; that a bye-law, upon which they had rested their chief defence in a recent trial before the Court of King's Bench; that a bye-law, to the beneficial operation of which Dr. Stanger had, in the course of that trial, been advised by one of the judges upon the Bench to trust implicitly, instead of applying to the Court for a mandamus; and, lastly, that a bye-law, which your Lordship had expressly said *bound* them to examine every person who applied under it, should, in September 1797, be declared a *dormant* bye-law, the propriety of whose revival formed a question of very great concern, and was consequently not to be decided upon before it had undergone much serious consideration? In the midst of your indignation against such conduct in a body of men, formerly styled by your Lordship *the sanctuary of honour and good faith*, it must yet afford you some consolation to know, that many of the members were free from its guilt; and that when a motion was made to get rid of Dr. Pitcairn's proposal, by what is termed the previous question,

question, out of twenty-three, the whole number at the meeting, ten voted against it."

Dr. W. goes on to state, that the ostensible reason for rejecting this proposal was, that proper notice had not been given of Dr. Pitcairn's intention, although "no such notice was either required by the bye-law which authorized that proposal, or had been established by custom." And he proceeds to assert, notwithstanding this pretext, "that notice *was* given to the College of Dr. Pitcairn's intended proposal;" for he himself wrote to the President, acquainting him with what was intended to be done; he also told an officer of the College, whose duty it is to summon the fellows to their meetings; and he likewise gave the same information to his colleague, Dr. George Fordyce.

Lest it should be said that "Dr. Pitcairn's motion had been only suspended," the author "resolved to bring their sincerity to trial afresh, by having himself proposed a second time for examination. Upon mentioning this determination to Dr. Pitcairn, he offered his aid in accomplishing it, by repeating his former motion in September 1798; before which, in consequence of what has already been observed, it could not be received.

"During that interval, the College proceeded to impose a new restriction upon the admission of licentiates into their body, as if to demonstrate the truth of the allegation against them, which had been so scornfully repelled by the judges of the Court of King's Bench, that their bye-law for the examination of persons of that class was altogether illusory, and had been framed with the intention that no one should ever be received by it. The new restriction was, that whoever meant to propose a licentiate for examination, should give notice of this at a preceding quarterly meeting of the College. Its professed object was to allow time to the fellows for inquiry into the character of the person to be proposed. The pledge to be given by a fellow upon proposing a licentiate, the candi-
date's

date's residence for at least seven years in the midst of them, and the interval of a twelvemonth between the first and last ballots upon his fitness, were consequently declared to be insufficient barriers against the entrance of unworthy persons into the corporation."

The author observes, that Dr. Pitcairn, in June 1798, gave notice at a meeting of the fellows, "that he should in the following September again propose him for examination. To this notice he premised, that he conceived it to be unnecessary, since the merits of his first proposal had not yet been considered. But unfortunately for mankind and himself, he was shortly after taken ill, and was in consequence obliged to leave London for the recovery of his health, a few days before the time arrived for making his motion. Previously to his departure, however, he wrote a letter to Dr. Baillie, in which, after stating his own inability to propose me, he delegated that office to him. Accordingly, Dr. Baillie produced this letter at the meeting of the College in September, and then proceeded to execute his trust. This was resisted by the same men who had opposed the former motion for my being examined. It was urged by them, that the new bye-law required the proposal to be made by the very person who had given notice of it. To this it was answered, that as the avowed object of the notice was to allow time for inquiry into the character of the person to be proposed, the spirit of the bye-law prescribing it had, in the present case, been completely satisfied. And it was asked, whether a delegation had never formerly been received, when he who had declared his intention of bringing forward any measure was prevented by illness, or the unavoidable duties of his profession, from attending at the College to propose it. No reply was made; but a question was immediately put, whether the *present* delegation should be admitted. A ballot being taken, twelve votes were found against the delegation, and nine in favour of it.

“ An attempt was then made to bring in a different way before the College the original question of examination. It was maintained, that the first proposal by Dr. Pitcairn was still upon their table, as it had never been decided upon, and that it ought now to receive their determination. The minutes of the meeting in September 1797, were in consequence called for and read ; upon which it was declared, that Dr. Pitcairn's proposal had then been *finally disposed of and rejected*. No cloud, therefore, now hangs over the conduct of the College ; nothing now intervenes to alter its natural colours, or to distort the light by which it is seen.”

Dr. Wells next attempts to remove any objection which might possibly be imagined to exist in the minds of the fellows (who opposed him,) either against his moral character or personal conduct ; but, at the same time, he observes that none of those gentlemen have ventured publicly to avow any such objections to his being examined. He then offers some observations, intended to demonstrate that the “ materials” of which the College of Physicians is composed, render the members of that society too liable to act unjustly towards those licentiates who apply for admission into their corporation. In this part of the Letter, however, are many extraneous and personal reflections, which will not conduce to heal the breach so unhappily subsisting among our brethren.

Although, from the present view of this controversy, it seems as if the licentiates had reason and equity on their side ; yet it is natural to expect that the members of every corporate body, possessed of an uncontrolled discretionary power, should be attentive to their own aggrandizement and profit.

As impartial reviewers, we felt it our duty to recite facts as we here found them narrated : but it would have given us real pleasure to have been able to state, that an amicable accommodation had taken place between the respective assailants. Such an event is highly desirable, both for the credit of professional men, as well as for the benefit of the community at large.

W.

ART.

ART. II. *An Inquiry into the Symptoms and Causes of the Syncope Anginosa, commonly called Angina Pectoris; illustrated by Dissections.* By CALEB HILLIER PARRY, M.D. Member of the College of Physicians of London, and of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh; and one of the Physicians of the Bath general Hospital. Octavo. 167 pages. CADELL and DAVIES, London. 1799. Price 4s.

THIS is a well-written, sensible essay; in which the author has exhibited much diligence in collecting information on his subject, and a considerable degree of ingenuity in the employment which he has made of the materials thus collected, with an account of his own experience.

It is generally known that the medical world is indebted to Dr. Heberden for the first clear account of the *angina pectoris*. His description of it is to be found in the second and third volumes of the London Medical Transactions. Afterwards, Dr. Fothergill, Dr. Wall of Worcester, and Dr. Percival of Manchester, communicated histories of this painful and melancholy disease to the public; and since that time Dr. Butter published a small tract on it, of which we shall have occasion to speak more particularly in the course of our review of Dr. Parry's Inquiry.

Our author commences his essay with the history of three cases, in which the symptoms are detailed in a minute and satisfactory manner, together with the appearances on dissection. The principal diseased appearances were found to exist in the coronary arteries, which, in the second and third cases, were ossified, and in the first case were lined with a thick crust, similar to that which is found in the inside of the trachea in the croup.

An enumeration of symptoms of the complaint next follows, and then an inquiry into the proper place it ought to hold in a system of nosology. Our author proposes a new name for it. The following is his history of symptoms:

“ Persons affected with this disease are said to be usually turned of fifty years of age. This, however, is not universally true, as appears from the authors to whom I have referred; and I have lately seen a very clearly marked example of the angina pectoris, in which the age of the patient scarcely exceeded forty years. The disease generally attacks persons of the male sex, and, of them, those who are inclined to corpulency.

“ The first symptom is an uneasy sensation, which has been variously denominated a stricture, an anxiety, or a pain, extending generally from about the middle of the sternum across the left breast, and, in certain stages of the disorder, usually stretching into the left arm a little above the elbow. In some few examples the pain, stricture, or anxiety, is in a certain degree felt also across the right breast; and occasionally, though I believe rarely, has extended itself to one or both wrists. According to Dr. Heberden, ‘ the os sterni is usually pointed to as the seat of this malady; but it seems sometimes as if it was under the lower part of it, and at other times under the middle or upper part, but always inclining more to the left side; and sometimes there is joined with it a pain about the middle of the left arm.’ On another occasion Dr. Heberden speaks of it as ‘ a pretty full pain in the left arm, a little above the elbow, which, perhaps, in half a minute spreads across the left breast, and produces a little faintness.’ Dr. Wall observes, that ‘ in most, if not all the persons whom he had attended in this disease, the pain under the sternum constantly extended itself on each side across the breast in the direction of the pectoral muscle, and affected one, or commonly both arms, exactly in the place where the muscle is inserted into the os humeri.’ In the first, in order of description, of Dr. Fothergill’s cases, the sensation is said to be ‘ a kind of stricture surrounding the chest, principally in a line with the mammæ: a sharp pungent pain, most particularly affecting the parts under the left

‘ left breast, extending itself upwards on that side, and down
‘ the inner part of the left arm, to the elbow.’ In Dr. For-
thergill’s second case, we are told that the course of this
‘ stricture,’ or ‘ pain,’ was across the breast, and down both
arms ‘ to the elbows.’ My patient, Mr. M. complained of
no pain in either arm; and from this case, as well as from
the experience of Dr. Heberden, it appears, that this symptom,
though of frequent occurrence, is by no means essential to the
angina pectoris. It is probably no more necessary to that dis-
ease, than a pain at the top of the right shoulder to inflamma-
tion of the liver.

“ The pain which I have described occurs in paroxysms,
and, in the early periods of the disease, is seldom produced
without some apparent cause, such as walking, particularly
up hill or up stairs, against the wind, or in a quick pace. On
these occasions the patient feels as if persisting in the exertion
would produce a total suspension of the powers of life. He
therefore stands still, or turns from the wind; on which the
uneasy sensation soon vanishes. We are told of one patient,
who appears to have been in other respects a man of unusual
firmness of mind, that he had the resolution to continue
walking, and that he found the pain go off after it had affected
him from five to ten minutes. This sensation in the breast
often admits of temporary relief from the evacuation of wind by
the mouth, and is altogether so free and distinct from any dif-
ficulty of breathing, that patients during the paroxysm make
a deep inspiration with the utmost ease, and, in some in-
stances, appear to be fond of sighing deeply, and of retaining
their breath. In some cases, it is either conjoined with an
unequal pulse; or affects persons who are subject to that
symptom. In other cases, the pulse has been habitually so
little changed, as to lead to the opinion that the heart in no
respect primarily suffers. But whatever may be the state of
the pulse as to regularity, I believe we shall always find it be-
come more or less feeble according to the violence of the
paroxysm.

“ In the slighter cases, and in the first stages of this disorder, the fit seldom comes on but from the exertions which I have mentioned; and as it is probable that experience of their mischievous effects will cause these exertions to be as much as possible shunned, patients will continue many days, and sometimes weeks, without any attack of the disease. It has been observed that paroxysms are most apt to occur from walking after a meal. In general they are not excited by exercise on horseback or in a carriage, or by some short and partial, though strong exertions of the body itself, as in talking, laughing, coughing, or vomiting. They have been by some thought to occur most frequently in the extremes of hot and cold weather; but in many instances there has been no perceptible difference in this respect.

“ As the disease advances, or in violent cases, the paroxysms sometimes come on, or are much increased, from certain passions of the mind; from slow walking; from riding on horseback, or in a carriage; from swallowing, speaking, coughing, or straining at stool; and sometimes also they attack the patient from about two to four o'clock in the morning, or while sitting or standing, without any previous exertion or obvious cause. The paroxysms now also become more violent, and do not so readily recede. During the fit the pulse sinks in a greater degree; the face and extremities become pale, and bathed in a cold sweat, and for a while, perhaps, the patient is deprived of the powers of sense and voluntary motion. At length, after the disease has recurred more or less frequently, sometimes during a space of many years, which admit of the patient's death from a variety of other causes, a more violent attack, of the nature which I have just described, puts a sudden period to his existence.”

The author after this passes in review several cases which have been published in different works as instances of angina pectoris, but which, in his opinion, were not so; and in this part he criticizes the work of Dr. Butter, alluded to above. He quotes a part only of Dr. B.'s description, and concludes that

that it is a variety of dyspepsia which that author has described, and not the true angina pectoris. We are obliged to dissent from Dr. Parry in this conclusion. We think Dr. B.'s account of the disease true and correct, as a general picture of what happens in a multiplicity of cases of true angina pectoris: but in order to judge of this, the whole of Dr. Butter's description must be read, and not a part only; and especially that part which describes some of the more uncommon symptoms of the disease. While we say thus much in justice to Dr. B. we hope it will not be understood as if we assented to his opinion, that the angina pectoris is a variety of gout. We have seen several instances of the complaint, and in all of them have had reason to believe the symptoms arose from diseased structure of the heart or its appendages; but this difference of opinion does not make us blind to the merits of Dr. B.'s description of the symptoms.

Dr. Parry argues that the disease ought to be considered as a species of syncope, and hence he denominates it *syncope anginosa*. But as a person may have repeated paroxysms of the complaint without falling down, or having the circulation stopt, or the senses abolished, we cannot see the propriety of calling it syncope.

Dr. P. in the next chapter presents us with a general view of the principal causes of syncope, which consist in organic mischief. These are:—"In the heart: inflammation and its consequences; dilatation or enlargement; flaccidity or decay; ossification or induration.—In the pericardium: inflammation and its consequences; dilatation; ossification or induration; tumours or extraneous substances; superabundant fluid.—In the aorta and other large vessels: dilatation; ossification, induration, or contraction of the vessel or its valves.—In the thorax: superabundant fluid.

"All these causes, existing in or near the heart, may be considered as powerfully predisposing it to that diminution of energy which constitutes the proximate cause.

" Besides

“ Besides these predisposing causes, experience points out other circumstances, as accidental, occasional, or exciting causes of syncope.

“ Of these causes the chief are, certain circumstances of sensation, including the existence, and even the sudden cessation of bodily pain; the emotions of grief, joy, fear, disgust, and sympathy, more especially when suddenly excited; affections of various other parts of the body, particularly the alimentary canal; exposure to great external heat; different degrees of bodily exercise; the action of kneeling; the rising into an erect posture, after long confinement in bed by disease; the sudden removal of the fluid in the ascites, and of the foetus in delivery; want of food; sudden or great evacuations of blood; violent evacuation by stool.

“ I have for the present thrown these causes together, with little regard to method; nor, indeed, have they hitherto been observed with accuracy sufficient to admit of their being arranged with precision. The inquiry is, however, highly important, and may, perhaps, be assisted by the following suggestions.”

Our author begins these inquiries by first examining the sudden evacuation of blood as a cause of syncope. He says, “ it has been customary to explain syncope thus produced, by supposing that it depends on the abstraction from the brain of that blood which is essential to its due energy; in consequence of which the heart, deprived of its proper nervous influence, no longer acts with the necessary force. This appears to be the opinion of Dr. Cullen, and, I think, of Morgagni; and those, who thus reason, believe they draw a conclusive argument in favour of their theory from the relief which, in fainting, is so quickly obtained from the horizontal posture.”

To this theory he objects, first, because apoplexy, which destroys nervous influence, does not occasion the symptoms of syncope; neither does the dividing the par vagum and the intercostal nerves do so.

Although

Although Dr. P. argues against this theory, we must confess, that to us his own doctrine is extremely analogous to it; there is, indeed, so slight a shade of difference between this commonly received notion and his own, that we can hardly see a contrast. But we shall give the opinion in his own words:

“ The more obvious functions of the brain are the faculties of sense and voluntary motion; and it is admitted that these functions cannot continue without a due circulation of blood through the vessels of the brain. It is also acknowledged that the contractions of the heart and arterial system immediately depend on the stimulus of the blood. This stimulus consists in the chemical nature of the blood, and in its distending force, exerted on tubes reacting by mechanical and muscular power. Now if the action of the heart and arteries be so far diminished as to weaken in a considerable degree the general circulation, and to convey to the brain less blood than is necessary for its due functions, the faculties of sense and voluntary motion will be impaired; and thus will be produced all the phenomena of syncope.

“ According to this explanation, the origin of syncope is in the arterial system; and the brain is affected only secondarily, in consequence of the want of blood determined to it by the heart. It is true, indeed, that certain sensations and passions, as we have before observed, produce syncope; and as these are affections of the mind, it is obvious that the original operation of the causes producing them is on the brain. But I contend that they would not occasion syncope, without an intermediate and corresponding diminution of the action of the heart and arteries, operating in the manner which I have already explained. In other words, the brain is in these cases nothing more than the medium of sensation to the arterial system, which is then affected with that inaction which constitutes syncope.”

A very ingenious and beautiful digression concerning the operation of stimuli, and the nature of excitement and debility, follows.

follows, which we cannot condense, and which is too long to be extracted. He takes a comprehensive view of all the exciting causes of syncope, and endeavours to reduce their *modus operandi* to one principle already explained. The fifth chapter contains a recapitulation of the whole inquiry, which, being very short, we shall lay before our readers.

“ It may be advantageous to place under one view the general conclusions which have been drawn from the preceding inquiries into the nature and causes of the angina pectoris. From these it appears,

“ I. That it is a case of syncope, preceded by a notable anxiety or pain in the region of the heart.

“ II. That so far as the most accurate observation has hitherto gone, the tendency to this disorder arises from mal-organization in the heart itself; which mal-organization seems to be chiefly induration of the coronary arteries.

“ III. That this mal-organization acts by diminishing the energy of the heart.

“ IV. That the chief symptoms of the disease are the effect of blood retarded and accumulated in the cavities of the heart and neighbouring large vessels.

“ V. That the causes exciting the paroxysms are those which produce this accumulation;

“ 1. By mechanical pressure; or,

“ 2. By stimulating in an excessive degree the circulating system; in consequence of which, the heart, weakened by the mal-organization, readily sinks into a state of quiescence while the blood continues to advance in the veins. Whence it follows, that the power of the heart being given, the disposition to paroxysms will be directly as the momentum of the blood in the veins; and that, on the contrary, the momentum of the blood in the veins being given, the disposition to paroxysms will be inversely as the power of the heart.

“ VI. That, after a certain approach towards quiescence, the heart may recover its irritability, so as again to carry on

the circulation in a more or less perfect degree, from the operation of the usual stimuli; but,

“ VII. That death may at length ensue from a remediless degree of irritability in the heart.”

In the eighth chapter our author treats of the prevention, cure, or relief, of the syncope anginosa.

Being impressed with the belief that ossification of the arteries depends on increased impetus of the blood, the antiphlogistic plan of cure is necessarily proposed as the best preventive and palliative; abstinence to a considerable degree, vegetable diet, the avoiding *broths*, chocolate, milk, and other slops, malt liquors, &c. are recommended. A due degree of exercise is inculcated; blood-letting in moderation praised; purges rejected as hurtful; issues considered as doubtful. We are sorry to say, that this is the least satisfactory chapter in the essay; and we venture to assert, from experience in this disorder, that the method of alleviation recommended by Dr. Butter will be found upon the whole the best, notwithstanding our author seems averse to broths and purges.

Upon the whole, although we differ from Dr. Parry in a few particulars, we readily embrace this opportunity of returning him thanks for the pleasure which the perusal of his essay has afforded us, and we do not hesitate to recommend it to our readers. The style in which it is written is very perspicuous.

H.

ART. III. *Experiments with the Metallic Tractors in rheumatic and gouty Affections, Inflammations, and various topical Diseases; as published by Surgeons Herholdt and Rafn, of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Copenhagen; translated into German by Professor Tode, Physician to his Danish Majesty; thence into the English Language by Mr. Charles Kampfmüller: also Reports of about one hundred and fifty Cases in England; demonstrating the Efficacy of the Metallic Practice in a Variety*

18 *Perkins's Experiments with the Metallic Tractors.* [March, of Complaints, both upon the human Body and on Horses, &c. by medical and other respectable Characters. Edited by BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, A. M. of Leicester Square, London, Son of the Discoverer. Octavo. 355 pages. JOHNSON, London. 1799. Price 5s.

IT will doubtless appear to our admiring posterity among the wonders of the eighteenth century, that towards its close, when the boasted age of reason had reached its zenith, and produced all sorts of revolutions, both in politics and science, we should rake up the graves of our sleeping forefathers, dig up the occult qualities and magic influences which lay buried with their inventors, varnish them over with new names, pretend to explain old opinions by modern doctrines, and “give to airy nothings a local habitation and a name.” Such effects, however, of modern philosophy have appeared in plenty of late. *Mesmerism* and *magnetism*, and many other *isms*, are fresh in the remembrance of our readers; and last, but not least in the train, comes *Perkinism*, born in the regions of North America, and now making the tour of Europe.

Arrige aures, Pamphile! Mark and perpend.—Here you shall see physicians and surgeons, farriers, divines, and philosophers, descend to the lowest form, and become advocates for the Metallic practice.—Men and women, boys and girls, sheep and horses, all flock together to announce the benefits of this marvellous discovery.—Wounds and bruises, burns and sprains, rheumatisms and inflammations, pass in review like Banquo's ghosts, “all here, and gone in a moment.”—In short, the lucky possessor of these conjuring tools, were he ever such a dunce before, is, in a single instant, converted into a doctor, and transcends all the Fellows of the College.

Would one suppose—But stop, gentle reader—Start not at the reputed potency of Metallic Tractors. Remember their effects in ancient days, and how successfully they were em-

ployed to quiet the sickly qualms of the Athenian orator, conquering all the ebullitions of his patriotism at a single stroke, and giving him that most desperate and incurable sore throat called the Arguranche. Nor less surprising was their influence at a modern election, where they produced almost the same effects on like obstinate minds, through the thick, tenacious, non-electric crust of a West-country apple-dumpling*. But the tractors of which we now speak, are employed, not to excite, but to cure diseases. They are made of baser metal, to produce more noble effects. Employed on the patriotism of Demosthenes, or the obstinacy of a stiff elector, they would be of no avail; but should the orator be hoarse, or the elector lame, the one may perhaps be made to bawl, and the other to skip about on the hustings, to the great entertainment of the public, and the credit of modern philosophy.

But it is now time to be serious. We have long since entered our formal protest against all quackery and mock-science, whatever garb it may assume. Nor are we more disposed than formerly to spare the multiform Proteus, wherever he appears, or whatever names he may find to record among his mistaken votaries.

The editor of this volume has brought forward a mass of evidence which he seems to think unanswerable, in favour of the efficacy of his metallic tractors. This evidence, such as it is, we have taken the trouble to examine, and shall make so free with the patience of our readers, as to present a specimen of it for their consideration. Our opinion on the subject may be gathered from what we have already said, and will, we think, be amply supported by the internal evidence of the work before us, and of those which are next to be reviewed.

* In the instance alluded to, it is said the electors were regaled with apple-dumplings, and five guineas (just the price of a pair of tractors) were put within the crust of each, to galvanize their votes, and direct them into a proper channel.

The first fourscore pages are occupied with the translation of the Danish cases, and some observations upon them. They are introduced with great parade, as the copy we have given of the title-page will in some degree shew ; but they form a very feeble testimony in favour of the tractors. The number of cases related is forty-seven ; of these, eighteen are wholly unsuccessful, nine were only partially relieved, and twenty cured. Of those which are cured, several were patients with common head-ache and tooth-ache, which are well known to be often curable by a great variety of conjurations beside tractors. Another of those who are said to be cured had an erysipelas of the face, which, from the account here given, went through its usual course, and in which, therefore, the tractors could have had no merit whatever. The remaining cases appear sufficiently explicable by the influence of the imagination, or the spontaneous efforts of nature. But let our readers judge for themselves. The following, it is to be observed, we have included among the number of successful cases.

“ Joachim, aged 52, had been for some time afflicted with the gout in his left arm. He was perkinised with the metallic tractors which came from America. During their application the pain very much diminished, and he recovered.”

“ Luis Paulsen, aged 38, had a violent pain in the left side and the back part of his head. He was perkinised with the tractors only once, and the pain ceased, though some soreness remained a short time afterwards.”

“ A lady, 36 years of age, had been, during four weeks, afflicted by a most violent rheumatic pain [*malum ischiaticum acutum*] in her left hip, and extending to the thigh of the same side. Mercurials mended her situation so far, that she was not exercised with very great pains, except when she moved her knee or attempted to walk. She was therefore obliged to keep all the lower extremity extended without moving. As the stiffness had continued for some weeks, notwithstanding the above remedies, I was curious to see the effects of Perkinism : I made

made the first experiment on the 2d of March in the evening. During the application she did not perceive any alteration, but a quarter of an hour afterwards a very violent pain seized her, all over her leg and foot. In this situation she remained the whole night, and the pain by paroxysms affected all the lower extremity on the right side.

“ The next day, on their application, the pain ceased a little, and the stiffness in the hip had, according to the patient's declaration, something diminished. 4th, Her night had been comfortable : Perkinism was applied in the evening, after which she had again an attack of pain, but not so violent as the last. It was remarkable, that the pain drew this time towards the arms and back, where, during all her sickness, she had never felt any.

“ The 5th, they diminished the pains again, and the stiffness in the hip was now remarkably lessened. Perkinism was applied the following days until the 8th, morning and evening, without any considerable alteration, except that immediately after the application she felt an acute pain in different parts of the body, which however went off in a couple of hours. The former stiffness, on the contrary, is now almost entirely gone, so much that she can tread upon the ground, and even walk some steps, which she had not been able to do for nine weeks before.

“ W. KLINGBERG.”

“ Joseph, aged 49, came into the hospital the 10th of February. He had violent pains in the left hip, which extended all over the exterior part of the leg and thigh, and were so insupportable, that the patient could not put his foot on the ground. They always increased at night ; but the first cause of his illness he ascribed to an effort in lifting.

“ Without employing any other remedy, the tractors were tried. From the commencement of the experiments, the patient was eased ; and with the constant daily use, the pain at last

last disappeared entirely in the hip, and descended to the leg and foot, where, according to his declaration, it continues to diminish so far that he can very well walk about. The places in the hip and the thigh, which the tractors touched, turned quite white, and with this change of colour the pain went off!"—*Risum teneatis?*

"A lady, aged 36, who had for many years been afflicted with a periodical pain in one side of the head, [*hemicrania*,] which attacked her weekly, and usually continuing for some days, desired me to try Dr. Perkins's tractors. I complied with her request, and, to my great astonishment, in the space of five minutes all pain was gone. During the operation, I observed that her pulse beat faster than usual, her hands, which were always cold, grew hot, red, and swelled, and began to perspire to such a degree, that drops hung upon the points of her fingers. She has to this day, which is three weeks since the operation, not felt the least symptom of pain, which before tormented her so constantly."

"A married lady, aged 29, who had been the whole winter subject to rheumatic pains in the head, and tried different remedies without success, begged me to try the sticks, as she called them. I held the iron-coloured tractor, without touching her, towards the temples, where she then felt the pain, and after some minutes she assured me, with great joy, that it was gone; yet a quarter of an hour after she felt it in the eye of the same side. I moved the point of the tractor only for a minute over the eye, when that was also gone.—Later in the evening she complained however again of some pain in the temples, but in a much less degree.—The next day she still felt some remains of it, and wanted to try again the effect of the tractors. They were now drawn over in contact with the part, and it ceased.—Four days have since passed, and she has been mostly free from pain, and only had sensations of it in a much slighter degree than formerly."

We have also, in this part of the work, some remarks on
the

the theory of Perkinism by Professor Abdilgaard, who, on the whole, seems to think favourably of it, as deserving the thorough attention of the physiologist. The learned Professor's theory is certainly very different from ours; but he observes (page 38,) that the experiments he has "hitherto had time and opportunity to make are so few in number, and *so little instructive*, that they scarce deserve to be noticed."—We agree with him in another remark he has made, that "we ought not *yet* be *too* confident, that Dr. Perkins's tractors will acquire that great and important value—to alleviate the pains and diseases of suffering humanity."

These cases, &c. were published in the German language by Professor Tode, physician to his Majesty of Denmark, with some notes on the American testimony in favour of the tractors. These notes, it seems, are a little severe. Mr. Perkins thinks the severity of the Professor arises from the imperfection of the translation to which they are appended.—But this does not appear to have been always the case: *e. g.*

"In the American pamphlet is the following statement from Nathan Pierce, Esq. governor and manager of the almshouse at Newburyport: 'Dr. Perkins visited the almshouse of this town yesterday, and performed operations with his metallic tractors on three persons, viz. one woman and two men, severely afflicted with the rheumatism; and from the best observation I have been able to make in so short a time, they all appear to be much relieved of their complaints.' This is translated correctly in the German, yet Dr. Tode objects to it as follows: 'This testimony is not very conclusive, as the reader sees; a circumstantial narrative is wanting, and one may observe that nothing is proved by it, but that three persons believed themselves to be cured of their rheumatism by the above operation.' Why Dr. Tode complained of this statement, because 'three persons *believed* themselves to be cured,' requires ingenuity to discover. No mention is made of the word '*believe*' in the statement, or any thing which suggests that

that the opinions of the patients were taken at all. But supposing they were questioned on the subject of their pains, it should seem that they were at least as good judges of their own feelings as another person."

Mr. Perkins adds, "I can offer no explanation of the Doctor's meaning in this criticism." We think no explanation is wanting.

So much for what is imported from Denmark. Now come we nearer home, and touch upon the second part. In the index to this are a number of respectable names in capital letters, calculated to excite the reader's expectations, and, we fear, to disappoint them. The experiments of Mr. Langworthy are first introduced. "The diseases in which he found the tractors most efficacious were, painful topical affections, as chronic and inflammatory rheumatism, inflammatory gout, quinsey, erysipelas, tetter, tumefactions from contusions, scalds, burns, inflammations of the eyes, head-aches, and pains on various parts of the body."—A great number of cases by Mr. Langworthy and others are then introduced, which bear a very close analogy with the accounts related some years ago of the operations of animal magnetism. But let our readers judge of these likewise.

" 'A lady consulted me, some months since, for a violent
 ' head-ache, which had afflicted her for a number of years.
 ' Wearied with a variety of medicines, and the application of
 ' leaches and blisters at different times, to no purpose, she
 ' asked me if I thought her case came under the Perkinian
 ' practice. Her pain extended from the forehead to the top of
 ' the head, and down the nape of the neck. I was fearful,
 ' from the constant pain she experienced, and slow fever,
 ' that matter was forming on the ventricles of the brain; in
 ' consequence of this apprehension, I did not express a desire
 ' to try the tractors, but informed her, that in case the pain
 ' should at any time increase, I would apply them with
 ' pleasure.

" ' Two

“ ‘ Two days after this, when I called on her, I found her
 ‘ confined to her bed, and the pain in her head had become so
 ‘ violent as to produce a delirium. Her eyes were violently
 ‘ inflamed. Conceiving that no time was to be lost, I applied
 ‘ the tractors, in different directions, to her head, and in less
 ‘ than ten minutes she spoke, and informed me that she
 ‘ was quite easy, and had great inclination to sleep. A
 ‘ profuse perspiration followed. In the evening I visited my
 ‘ patient again, and to my surprise found her up, and her
 ‘ head free from pain; the turgid redness and inflammation
 ‘ of her eyes were entirely removed, and from that time to
 ‘ this she has enjoyed perfect health, not having experienced
 ‘ the least return of her excruciating pain.’ ”

“ Mr. Langworthy has a case of a sprain, which is not un-
 important, and which he states as follows :

“ ‘ I have permission of Dr. Fellows of Bath, to state the
 ‘ particulars of the treatment of one of his servants, who
 ‘ sprained his ancle. The Doctor, expressing at different
 ‘ times his wishes to be informed of the success of the tractors,
 ‘ I called on him for that purpose. An opportunity imme-
 ‘ diately offered. One of his servants had a few hours before
 ‘ sprained his ancle. A violent inflammation ensued, with
 ‘ great pain and swelling. I applied the tractors for ten mi-
 ‘ nutes, when he fainted and was extremely sick ; which
 ‘ symptoms I have frequently remarked to be the effect of the
 ‘ application of the tractors, when the cure is about to follow.
 ‘ Half an hour after, he was operated upon again, which en-
 ‘ tirely removed the pain and inflammation. It is six weeks
 ‘ since the accident happened, and he has had no return of
 ‘ pain’.”

What but the influence of imagination can be detected in
 these cases ? But here follow greater wonders, recited by Mr.
 Mant, surgeon, of Southampton :

“ Walter Tailor, Esq. of Portswood Green, Southampton,
 met with an accident in descending a flight of stairs, by

which his leg was bent under him, and sprained in such a degree that he was unable to rise : the most violent pain in the muscles ensued. His servants having supported him to a sofa, he immediately had the tractors applied, which he purchased of you, and, to use his own expression, ‘ after continuing the operation fifteen minutes, the pain seemed to leave me as if I had taken it off with my stocking. It appeared to descend lower and lower, till at length I, as it were, *shook it off my toes*.’” Bravo !!!

“ The gentleman, mentioned in the last case, employs a number of men in a foundry, one of whom let fall some melted metal on his leg, and scalded it to a large extent. On applying the tractors twice, the effects of the scald were removed, and the man enabled to return to his work the next day.”

“ I was called to a young lady on the 23d instant, [March,] who, without any knowledge of having been the subject of a sprain or contusion, was affected with an inflammation and tumefaction in one of her ankles, attended with acute pain on the slightest motion, particularly if she attempted to ascend stairs. Not recollecting the tractors at the moment, I directed her to apply a poultice to the part. About five hours after I visited her again, and then used the tractors for about twenty minutes, which produced a slight diminution of the swelling. They were again applied for the same space of time, about an hour after, and used at intervals. The next morning she was so much better as to be able to walk out, without experiencing but little inconvenience, whereas the day before she could not move two steps without very great pain. On the succeeding day, 25th, she rode thirty miles into Sussex, and her ankle to this time [March 31st] remains perfectly well.”

“ Richard Lee, of North Shields, captain of the ship Brothers (a transport at Southampton to carry troops to Portugal,) was seized, March 27th, with an intense pain and inflammation in one of his eyes, which he said was increased by washing it with brandy and water. On the 28th, he called

on me for advice ; I immediately applied the tractors. After fifteen minutes he said he was better, and in twenty exclaimed with joy that ‘ he was perfectly easy.’ Having discontinued their use, he afterwards had a recurrence of pain. The operation was again had recourse to, and in a few minutes he was perfectly relieved. The inflammation had in some measure subsided. When I drew the tractors across the eye-lid towards the temple, he assured me he felt the pain follow it to the external angle, where it ceased, after applying the tractors an hour in the whole. He remained perfectly easy, and went away. Being obliged to weigh anchor immediately, I am unable to obtain any further knowledge of the case.

“ I should not neglect to mention a circumstance, which I think merits observation. I directed this man to open his inflamed eye, indeed my assistant and myself held the lids, while I drew the tractors (about half an inch distant) over the pupil and cornea of the eye. The second time of doing this he started up, and exclaimed he could not bear it, as it occasioned such violent pain, and seemed to have an effect exactly similar to an electric shock ; but the patient never having received such a shock, and being entirely uninformed on the subject, could only give me an idea of it, by saying it felt as if I had plunged a knife into his eye.”

“ A young woman had so violent an inflammation in her right eye, that she could not bear the light without experiencing excruciating pain. There appeared a film over the greatest part ; the pupil completely. On the first application of the tractors she was with difficulty kept from fainting, not on account of the pain, but from a sensation she could not describe. The operations were continued for *three weeks*, during which she was daily receiving benefit, and at the end of that time the inflammation subsided, and the film also was entirely removed.”

“ A few weeks since I found myself exceedingly ill, with symptoms of approaching fever, which in a few days terminated in a complaint, to which I have of late years been much

subject, viz. an ulcerous sore throat. As it had usually been a tedious disorder with me, I became low-spirited, which the nervous fever that then attended me rather promoted. My tongue was covered with a thick brown crust, the tonsils and fauces much inflamed. Though I had so frequently made use of the tractors to others, the probability of their being useful to myself escaped me for several days. It however occurring at last, *I tracted myself* for about ten minutes, and obtained relief both from soreness and pain. In the course of the day I felt a slight return, but which, on the application of the tractors, was removed in a few minutes. In two or three days I was well enough to leave the house, and attend to business.

“ Some days after this my wife, who I suspect had caught the infection from me, was attacked in the same manner; but the timely application of the tractors prevented the disorder from proceeding to any great height, and she was favoured to recover much sooner than I had ever known any to have done in a similar complaint.”

The following case is somewhat curious, and rather curiously related :

“ M. Ricketts, statuary, aged 54, enjoying a tolerable state of health, and not of a full habit of body, being in his workshop on the 13th January 1799, fell down suddenly in a fit, with a total loss of sense and motion. The lower part of the occiput hitting against the edge of a packing-box, occasioned a considerable laceration, and a *profusion* of blood. In the space of half an hour he recovered himself in some measure, but without any recollection of what had happened. He was then put to bed, and instantly complained of a most intense head-ache, for which he was bled, and had leeches applied to his temples. An eminent physician visited him, who prescribed according to his judgment; but there was experienced no diminution of pain. Eleven days elapsed in this alarming state.

“ He thought of the tractors. Mrs. Ricketts implored me
to

to see her husband. From her statement of the case, I was not warranted in supposing it within the probability of their sphere of action, naturally concluding a great pressure on the brain, perhaps extravasation. To comply with her ardent wishes I went, but determined, for obvious reasons, not to use the tractors: it was about nine at night. An inflammatory diathesis appeared to prevail, particularly in his eyes; his pulse full and tense; no symptoms of delirium, but the pain was inexpressible. I remarked that he more particularly was rubbing the orbit of his left eye. 'Here,' he said, 'my greatest pain lies. This is torture. I feel pain over all my head, but it is bearable compared with this part.' On a closer inspection, I found that he *pursed up* in some measure the eye-lid. This circumstance struck me forcibly, having sometimes seen and experienced myself such a sign to attend an intermittent ophthalmia. I thought more favourably of his case, and as he still wished a trial of the tractors, I consented to their application. I moved them in a circular direction over the left orbit in contact with the skin. In about eight minutes his countenance suddenly cleared up, and he exclaimed, 'Now, now I am in heaven!' I continued the application a quarter of an hour, when he no longer felt pain, but with the composure of a person in perfect health put on his cap. In the mean time observing symptoms of flatulence, I was led not to apprehend a *preponderance* of inflammation, but rather to rely on that symptom as a diagnostic. I thought the tractors acted as a good compass, and I began to be sure as it were of my latitude. I entertained some expectations that the case might terminate in an intermittent; they were realized. For three successive mornings the pain affected him, though in a slight degree, from four o'clock until about nine. I operated on him afterwards very superficially; but as the stomach appeared now evidently in fault, I was convinced nothing could effect that part of the cure but one or two timely emetics, and, if necessary, afterwards the bark.

He

He followed my instructions. The *sordes* was immense in consequence of the emetic. He has not experienced the slightest return of the head-ache, and is now in perfect health. *It appears to me evident, that the tractors alone stopped the dreaded apprehension of delirium, and imminent danger."*

We have now given cases of the different diseases which these instruments are said to relieve; but it seems the application of them, contrary to that of all other remedies, has been most unfortunate in hospitals.

Mr. P. informs us, that as he "has determined on noticing every thing which, to his knowledge, has occurred in public institutions respecting the tractors, he must not fail to mention a visit which he made to Guy's Hospital; although, as nothing decisive occurred in that place, it may not appear to bear much reference to the point in question.

"Dr. Saunders, senior physician, with that liberality which distinguishes this eminent character, kindly invited me to try the effects of the tractors on any of his patients, whom I should conceive to be suitable subjects for experiment. In compliance with this invitation, about the 1st of June 1798, I accompanied some medical friends to that hospital, with the hope of meeting with proper cases; the patients, however, who were presented on that day, were all of a different description. One woman, with an highly inflamed eye, appeared at first to be a subject not unsuitable for the metallic practice; but, on further examination of her complaint, other symptoms evinced her case to be of a complicated nature, and that she required a different mode of treatment.

"To gratify, however, the several medical gentlemen present, by shewing the method of applying the tractors, they were drawn a short time over this person's eye, and, as I had previously apprehended, with no considerable effect: she thought she could see more distinctly, but, from the nature of her case, she, undoubtedly, did not receive much benefit from

from the application. Not having seen the patient afterwards, the result of her case is unknown to me.

“ My professional avocations, and a distance of three miles from Guy's Hospital, have precluded the possibility of my since availing myself of Dr. Saunders' indulgence for prosecuting my experiments in that place. To do justice to the practice, the tractors should be applied three times in the day, and in many cases be continued for some weeks.

“ A short time after the visit at Guy's Hospital, by the politeness of Dr. Pearson, whose liberality is equalled only by his reputation as a philosopher and a physician, the editor was invited to use the tractors on any of his patients at St. George's Hospital, if proper subjects could be found among them. On inquiry, one rheumatic case presented. This was a labouring man, about 45 years of age, an out-patient of the hospital. He had for several weeks been troubled with pains between his shoulders, for which blisters, embrocations, and other external applications had been used. These various remedies had given no other relief than changing the seat of the complaint, which was now confined to the shoulders alone. *As the parts were yet in a greasy state, from the oily applications which had been used, no considerable advantage was to be expected from the tractors.* However, they were drawn over one of the shoulders and down the arm for about ten minutes, when the pain in that shoulder *was conducted into the elbow !*

“ The application was then made for the same term of time to the other arm, and the same effect was produced : the pain in both arms being removed to the elbows, leaving the shoulder tolerably easy.

“ Conceiving that nothing effectual could be done in the present *unctuous* state of the parts, the patient was ordered to apply again to the hospital, if he experienced any further pain; but as he never presented himself afterwards, *it may be presumed* that he had no further occasion for the tractors.”

Other cases were likewise tried at St. George's Hospital;
but,

but, says Mr. P. "they are partly irrelevant to the object of our present inquiry, as they do not afford any decisive evidence in favour of, or against the metallic practice. They have, however, confirmed what has often been observed in the remarks on the Danish cases, viz. the unfitness of *hospital* experiments for ascertaining the merits of the tractors.

"Conceiving that further experiments in the hospital would be liable to circumstances similar to those just adduced, the editor discontinued his practice in that house."

But, however irrelevant and unfit these and the following cases are, the author does not seem unwilling to insert them for the sake of introducing great names.

"About the middle of December the editor was honoured with an invitation to the regimental hospital of his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, by Mr. Charleton, the surgeon of that institution; but not meeting with any proper cases for the metallic practice, the tractors were not used.

"On the 20th of January the editor made some experiments in the regimental hospital of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, commonly called the Coldstream Hospital, Mr. Knight, surgeon to the households of their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of York and Clarence, who presides over that establishment, and to whose politeness the editor is indebted for an invitation to use the tractors in that place, selected three subjects for experiment. On examining the first of these, suspicions were entertained that the man was an impostor. On ordering him to raise his arm, which he said was in great pain, he declared his inability to move it, yet soon afterwards, when taking off his coat, during our presence, he was caught raising his arm by accident to an horizontal position, and without making any complaint. This and several other circumstances which had been previously observed of this person, rendered the deception so evident to Mr. Knight, that we did not continue the applications upon him, but had recourse to some other patients, who could give

ocular proof of their diseases. The first of these was a German, who had been confined to his bed for several days with an acute rheumatism. When we saw him the pain was chiefly in his shoulder, and was so considerable as to prevent him from raising his right arm to his head. After drawing the tractors over this shoulder, and down to the ends of his fingers, for about twelve minutes, he raised his arm over his head without giving him but very little pain. Before we left the house he was so much benefited, that he put on his coat without any assistance, which he had been unable to effect since the commencement of his illness.

“ The next case was that of a person severely affected with the acute rheumatism in both shoulders and arms : the least motion occasioned very great pain. This patient was distinguished as a steady and intelligent man, and better educated than the generality of soldiers. His account of the effects which he should perceive on the application of the tractors, Mr. Knight very judiciously observed, would be more satisfactory to him than the declaration of persons with whom he had not been previously acquainted.

“ The tractors were drawn over the shoulder of this man, and conducted to the ends of his fingers, for about ten minutes, when he remarked that the pain was lessened ; and on attempting to move it, he found he could raise it over his head, which he was unable to do before. The operation was then performed for the same term of time on the other arm, and the same favourable change ensued. He was now able to raise both arms over his head, and move them with greater ease in every direction.

“ The editor's avocations not permitting him to visit this hospital to repeat the use of the tractors on these two persons, which, to have completed a cure, should have been done three times in the day, and continued for three or four days, there was necessarily, on the next day, a recurrence of the symptoms.” It is rather wonderful, however, that these two cases,

34 *Perkins's Experiments with the Metallic Tractors.* [March, being an exception to all other hospital cases, should have been so unhappily neglected.

The trials of these tractors on horses seem to give the author great satisfaction, as the horse cannot be supposed to be affected by imagination; but though a number of cases are given, we do not see in them any thing more or less than the natural course of the complaints. The recovery in them all, however, is attributed to the tractors.

Next to the horse comes the innocent and honest sheep; but he, poor fellow! knows very little of the matter. His coat, it seems, is greasy, and grease is a mortal enemy to tractorship.

“Provident nature has very bountifully supplied the body of the sheep with an unctuous and oily fluid, doubtless to promote the rapid growth of the wool, and defend it from the wet. This animal, justly esteemed one of the most valuable in the world, is yearly robbed of its wool, and as the second growth of this covering is supported by the oily matter, a greater quantity becomes necessary for that purpose. Now we find from experience, that all unctuous bodies resist the metallic influence. Even pomatum applied to the hair, it is well ascertained, prevents the tractors from relieving pains in that part of the head over which the pomatum is used: we therefore can easily conceive that the body of the sheep, which is constantly clothed with this oily matter, cannot be acted upon by the tractors. In the inflammation of the udder of a sheep, where this fluid is not so abundant, the metallic practice we find was *thought* to be of use, by abating the inflammation; and this I *apprehend* would have taken place more effectually had the udder been previously washed with warm water, and wiped clean, a practice which I would recommend previous to all operations with the tractors. In many cases I have found the perspirable matter issuing from bodies, prevent any effect from the metallic application, and on removing that obstacle, relief would be immediately obtained.”

Here

Here cleanliness is strongly enforced as necessary, previous to the application of the metallic instruments. This, indeed, is a very efficacious prescription, and perhaps likely to do much more good than the tractors themselves.

The concluding part of this volume is devoted to an attempt to refute the objections brought against the tractors; and especially to those advanced by Mr. Wilkinson, Dr. Willich, and the Monthly Reviewers. Here we find a great deal about Galvanism, and electricity, and obscurity, and evidence, and success, and *modus operandi*, and useful improvements, and so forth. The sum of all that is said by way of theory, is, that perhaps the tractors operate on the principle of Galvanism, perhaps on that of electricity, and perhaps on neither; but, by attracting some "*subtile principle*," or unknown fluid, which is continually arising from the bodies of animals. Here the former dupes of animal magnetism will recognise the cloven foot, and remember the old doctrine with a new face.

But as it is now time to have done with this volume, we shall beg leave to propose the following queries for the consideration of those who have suffered themselves to appear as advocates for this species of empiricism.

1. If the Galvanic principle so pervade the bodies of animals, as to render the application of metals even probably beneficial, how is it that those metals are not recommended which excite this principle in the strongest manner? How can it be necessary, for any man who wants to make the experiment, and has six-pennyworth of zinc, and a guinea or even a shilling in his possession, to pay *five guineas* for a pair of tractors of any composition or form whatever?

2. If the pretended efficacy of the tractors is to be accounted for by Galvanism, how is it that the metals are not ordered to be brought into contact with each other; seeing the Galvanic influence is never produced, even on nerves when laid bare, till this contact takes place?

3. If it is to be explained by electricity, why are two metals to be used when one would be sufficient?

4. If it be either Galvanism or electricity, or some unknown principle which makes the tractors serviceable, how can grease or oil, on the outside of the skin, prevent their efficacy more than fat under the skin?

But Dr. HAYGARTH's pamphlet, which comes next under consideration, will let us into all the mysteries belonging to this subject.

We shall only here add, that as Mr. Perkins has endeavoured to strengthen his cause by the opinions of several foreigners, it is but just to place on the opposite side of the question the remarks of other foreign critics on the same subject. We therefore copy, for the perusal of our readers, the following passages from the fifth number of the *Bibliothèque Germanique Médico-Chirurgicale*, pages 329, 330, 344, 345, in the review of Dr. Tode's translation of M. Herholdt's pamphlet on PERKINISM.

“De temps en temps on voit s'élever, sur l'horizon médical, des hommes qui doués en apparence de talens surnaturels, s'écartent de la route battue, abandonnent les moyens employés ordinairement pour la guérison des maladies, et leur substituent des paroles, des signes, des attouchemens; ils persuadent à la multitude qu'ils guérissent ses maux; ils trouvent des malades qui leur donnent leur confiance, et ils obtiennent enfin de ceux-ci des attestations de leurs succès. Les plus légères vraisemblances à cet égard sont prises pour des réalités, et plus leurs moyens semblent tenir du merveilleux, plus ils trouvent de gens qui s'empressent à étendre leur renommée. Peu-à-peu néanmoins le prestige se dissipe, les miracles disparaissent, et bientôt le sycophante, qui n'avoit en vue que l'intérêt, ou se retire tout-à-coup du théâtre sur lequel il avoit brillé, ou se voit oublié de ceux même qui avoient le plus contribué à faire sa réputation, et l'on ne pense à lui que pour se promettre de n'être plus dupe de pareilles
reilles

reilles impostures. Cependant un nouvel Esculape du même genre paroît sur la scène, mais ses formes sont un peu différentes, il parle de physique, il s'étaie de quelque nouvelle découverte faite par des philosophes, il persuade qu'il en a fait lui-même de très-importantes ; le hasard le seconde dans le traitement de quelques malades, et la multitude crie encore une fois au prodige !

“ Ce remède, quelque réalité qu'on suppose à ses effets, nous paroît être absolument le même dont on a tant parlé il y a douze ou quinze ans, sous le nom de MAGNETISME-ANIMAL. Comme *Perkins*, *Mesmer* et son imitateur *Deslon*, employoient des verges de métal qu'ils appelloient des conducteurs, mais qui ne leur étoient pas nécessaires, puisque leurs doigts faisoient le même office ; comme lui, ils promenoient leurs conducteurs sur les parties affectées de douleurs, d'érysipèles, de tumeurs, etc. et ils procuroient à leurs malades un soulagement très-prompt ; comme lui, ils n'avoient aucun moyen de faire apercevoir d'une manière sensible l'agent qu'ils dirigeoient ; comme lui, ils ont eu de nombreux élèves qui croyoient faire les cures les plus brillantes, quoiqu'aucun d'eux aujourd'hui n'ait conservé cette prétention ; le même sort probablement attend ceux de *Perkins*. *Mesmer* et ses adeptes, dira-t-on, occasionnoient chez les malades qu'ils magnétisoient, des accidens convulsifs de divers genres, un sommeil léthargique, un état de somnambulisme. Les aiguilles de *Perkins* ne produisent rien de semblable, leur application apaise les douleurs sans causer aucune secousse, on ne peut donc pas comparer l'un de ces remèdes avec l'autre ; mais nous ne doutons pas que *Perkins* ne produise, quand il voudra, les mêmes effets. Il suffira de les desirer, d'y attacher de l'importance, et surtout lorsqu'on sera parvenu à obtenir quelque CRISE de cette nature, d'en rendre témoins un grand nombre de personnes malades ou bien portantes. L'imitation ne tardera pas à les multiplier, et bientôt la seule vue des aiguilles suffira pour les causer chez ceux dont l'imagination sera le plus exaltée.”

We do not wish, by the remarks here made, to reflect in the least on the character of Mr. Perkins or his adherents. They may be perfectly sincere and upright in their intentions; but *we* are of opinion they are deceived by appearances, and that a true and rigid Newtonian spirit would have guarded them from the imposition. We desire only to promote the cause of truth; and though we do really consider the Perkinian practice as frivolous and absurd, if any of our readers shall still choose to think otherwise, we are very willing they should enjoy their opinion.

“ Si populus vult decipi, decipiatur.”

Q.

ART. IV. *Of the Imagination, as a Cause and as a Cure of Disorders of the Body; exemplified by fictitious Tractors, and epidemical Convulsions.* Read to the Literary and Philosophical Society of Bath. By JOHN HAYGARTH, M.D. F.R.S. Lond. and Edinb. of the Royal Medical Society at Edinburgh, and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Octavo. 43 pages. CADELL and DAVIES, London. 1800. Price 1s.

WE have already intimated that this pamphlet will let us into the whole mystery of tractorism; and accordingly we now proceed to give an analysis of it, for the attentive consideration of our readers.

Dr. Haygarth informs us that the tractors obtained such high reputation at Bath, even among persons of rank and understanding, as to require the particular investigation of physicians; he therefore proposed to fabricate a pair of false, exactly to resemble the true, tractors; and that the secret should be kept inviolable, not only from the patients themselves, but every other person. By trying the efficacy of both, beginning always with the false instruments, and recording the event of each experiment, he wisely concluded that the real merit

merit of Mr. Perkins's costly tractors would be infallibly determined. This proposal having been made to Dr. Falconer, he entirely approved the suggestion, and agreed to select proper cases from among his patients in the General Hospital. "We contrived two wooden tractors," says the author, "of nearly the same shape as the metallic, and painted to resemble them in colour. Five cases were chosen of chronic rheumatism, in the ankle, knee, wrist, and hip. One of the patients had also gouty pains. All the affected joints, except the last, were swelled, and all of them had been ill for several months.

"On the 7th of January 1799, the wooden tractors were employed. All the five patients, except one, assured us that their pain was relieved, and three much benefited by the first application of this remedy. One felt his knee warmer, and he could walk much better, as he shewed us with great satisfaction. One was easier for nine hours, and till he went to bed, when the pain returned. One had a tingling sensation for two hours. The wooden tractors were drawn over the skin so as to touch it in the *slightest* manner. Such is the wonderful force of the imagination!

"Next day, January 8th, the true metallic tractors of Perkins were employed exactly in like manner, and with similar effects. All the patients were in some measure, but not more relieved by the second application; except one, who received no benefit from the former operation, and who was not a proper subject for the experiment, having no existing pain, but only stiffness of her ankle. They felt (as they fancied) warmth, but in no greater degree than on the former day.

"This trial was witnessed by Dr. Falconer, Mr. Nicholls, surgeon of the hospital, Mr. Farnell, apothecary of the hospital, and myself, on both days; and on the second day by Mr. Phillott, also surgeon of the hospital. It need not be remarked, how completely the trial illustrates the nature of this

40 *Haygarth on the Imagination and fictitious Tractors.* [March, this popular illusion, which has so wonderfully prevailed, and spread so rapidly ; it resembles, in a striking manner, that of animal magnetism, which merited the attention of Franklin, when ambassador from America, and of other philosophers at Paris. If any person would repeat these experiments, it should be done with due solemnity. During the process, the wonderful cures which this remedy is said to have performed ought to be particularly related. Without these indispensable aids, other trials will not prove as successful as those which are above reported. The whole effect undoubtedly depends upon the impression which can be made upon the patient's imagination.

“ This method of discovering the truth, distinctly proves to what a surprising degree mere fancy deceives the patient himself ; and if the experiment had been tried with metallic tractors only, they might and most probably would have deceived even medical observers. Yet this test of truth is perfectly candid. A fair opportunity was offered to discover whether the metallic tractors possessed any efficacy superior to the ligneous tractors, or wooden pegs.

“ In the decision of this question, it ought to be duly considered that the chronic rheumatism is a very obstinate and permanent disorder ; that out of the five cases (being all who were subjected to the trial,) four of the patients believed themselves immediately, and three remarkably, relieved by the false tractors ; and that this report is founded upon the unanimous testimony of five medical witnesses. This evidence is not inferior to what is alleged in favour of the true tractors, especially if it be considered that the cases which have been published are selected from many which were unsuccessful, and passed over in silence. This success of the false tractors can only be exceeded by the exaggerated stories which, for some months past, have been reported in every company with increasing amazement and credulity.

“ The proposer of these experiments, if he could have produced

duced authentic and conclusive proofs of the real efficacy of the metallic tractors, would, with equal frankness, and much greater satisfaction, have given his testimony in their favour, as another means of administering relief to the sufferings of mankind. If any proselyte to Perkinism should still believe in the superior virtue of this remedy, both the witnesses of these recent events, and the patients above mentioned, are ready to satisfy any farther inquiries on this subject."

With a view to obtain more decisive observations on this point, the author conveyed a pair of wooden tractors to Sir *William Watson* in London, and to Dr. *Moncrieffe* in Bristol, accompanied with a request that similar experiments might be repeated in each of those cities. The following letter from Mr. Smith to Dr. Haygarth was the result of this communication :

" Sir,

" Mr. Dyer some time since communicated to me the contents of a letter addressed by you to Dr. Moncrieffe. Considering it the duty of every regular practitioner to check the dangerous progress of empiricism, I instantly volunteered my services to assist in the design of investigating the merits ignorantly ascribed to Perkinian electricity. I confess freely to you, that the very respectable American, and even British, testimonies by which it was recommended to the public, at first staggered me exceedingly. I could not believe that the gentlemen mentioned in the pamphlet of Perkins would wilfully bear false witness, and I could scarcely imagine them to have been so deceived. Your hints, however, enabled me to adopt a plan which quickly dissipated the illusion; and I sincerely hope and trust that the result of the experiments will open the eyes of the public to so gross an imposition. I must premise that the following were all hospital patients, and that for the most part their medicines were, for the time, altogether suspended.

" 1. Robert Thomas, aged 43, who had been for some

time under the care of Dr. Lovell, in the Bristol Infirmary, with a rheumatic affection of the shoulder, which rendered his arm perfectly useless, was pointed out as a proper object of trial by Mr. T. W. Dyer, apothecary to the house.

“ Tuesday, April 19th, having every thing in readiness, I passed through the ward, and (in a way that he might suspect nothing) questioned him respecting his complaint. I then told him, that I had an instrument in my pocket which had been very serviceable to many in his state; and when I had explained to him how simple it was, he consented to undergo the operation. In six minutes no other effect was produced than a warmth upon the skin, and I feared that this *coup d'essai* had failed. The next day, however, he told me, that ‘ he ‘ had received so much benefit, that it had enabled him to ‘ lift his hand from his knee, which he had in vain several ‘ times attempted on the Monday evening, as the whole ward ‘ witnessed.’ The tractors I used being made of lead, I thought it advisable to lay them aside, lest (being metallic points) the proofs against this fraud might be less complete. Thus much, however, was proved—that the patent tractors possessed no specific powers independent of simple metals.

“ Two pieces of wood, properly shaped and painted, were next made use of; and in order to add solemnity to the farce, Mr. Barton held in his hand a stop-watch, whilst Mr. Lax minuted the effects produced. In four minutes, the man raised his hand several inches, and he had lost also the pain in his shoulder, usually experienced when attempting to lift any thing. He continued to undergo the operation daily, and with progressive good effect; for on the 25th he could touch the mantle-piece.

“ On the 27th, in the presence of Dr. Lovell and Mr. J. P. Noble, two common iron nails, disguised with sealing-wax, were substituted for the pieces of mahogany before used. In three minutes ‘ he felt something moving from his arm to ‘ his hand,’ and soon after he touched the board of rules
which

which hung a foot above the fire-place. This patient, at length, so far recovered that he could carry coals, &c. and use his arm sufficiently to assist the nurse; yet previous to the use of the spurious tractors ‘he could no more lift his hand from his knee than if a hundred weight were upon it, or a nail driven through it;’ as he declared in the presence of several gentlemen, whose names I shall have frequent occasion to mention. The fame of this case brought applications in abundance; indeed, it must be confessed, that it was more than sufficient to act upon weak minds, and induce a belief that these pieces of wood and iron were endowed with some peculiar virtues.

“ 2. Thomas Ellis, a negro, from a chronic rheumatism in his upper and lower extremities, had been incapable of walking without support, or feeding himself, for four months; he came under my care on the 19th of April. At first the tractors produced no effect upon his thighs, and but little upon his arms. In the course of a few applications, however, he began to move his limbs better, and his nights were not so restless. In the course of this case, the nails, lead, and wood, were used alternately, but there did not appear to be the least difference in the result. Mr. Langworthy, the agent for Mr. Perkins in this country, usually made use of the patent tractors for twenty or thirty minutes at a time; but my patients crowded in upon me so fast, that I had not leisure to bestow more than four or five minutes upon each: yet such effects were produced as were almost incredible. It usually happened that the skin was soon warmer, and occasionally darting pains were produced, which sometimes were troublesome long after the operation, and at others were of shorter duration. He complained also, that the cicatrix of an old scald upon his arm smarted a great deal. He now began to mend so fast, that he could comb his hair very readily; and on the 29th, in the presence of Dr. Lovell, and several other gentlemen, he put on his jacket, and walked across the ward without a stick or the least assistance.

“ To those who have not been eye-witnesses to the force of the imagination, these accounts may appear exaggerated ; but they can be too well attested to need any assertions of mine as to their veracity. These things were not done in a corner, but under the inspection of the faculty of the house, and in the presence of the whole ward.

“ 3. With the permission of Dr. Fox, I operated upon James Prior, who had been under his care three months with a paralysis of the flexor tendons of both hands. This was certainly a case in which little was to be expected, and I feared would prove a stumbling-block to my reputation. In three minutes, however, the tractors having been drawn from the elbow to the wrist, he felt the back of his hand become sensibly warmer ; and after four minutes had elapsed, he could actually touch the palm of the hand with the middle finger of his left hand, which he had not been able to effect for more than two months before. The right arm did not appear to be much affected at first, but in a few trials he began to have some power over that also ; the left hand was, in the course of a fortnight, so far restored, that he could almost clench his fist ; and soon afterwards he left the hospital. By accident I since met him, when he shewed me, with much pleasure, that he still retained the use of this hand ; but the other had relapsed into its former useless state.

“ 4. April 20th, I requested Mr. Barton to operate upon Peter Seward, aged 32, who had, for four years, been troubled with pains and weakness in his right arm. From the minutes taken by Mr. Lax, I learnt that he had experienced a good deal of pain during the operation. The next day I was assisted by Mr. Bernard and Mr. Lowe, jun. and as the case is rather curious, I shall copy verbatim the notes written upon the spot. In one minute, ‘ feels the pain coming on at the same place as yesterday ; the limb feels warm ; pain higher up, ‘ and sharper ;’ in two minutes, ‘ pain increases ;’ in three and a half, ‘ very acute, darting towards the collar-bone, ‘ and begins to give him so much uneasiness that he will not
‘ have

‘ have it done any longer ;’ perspires profusely, and is gone to bed. It was fortunate for me that the above gentlemen could bear witness to the remarkable effects of the imagination ; it was, notwithstanding, I believe, generally thought in the house that the account was exaggerated. On the 25th, however, in the presence of Messrs Joliffe, Barton, Gaisford, Emery, and Wylde, Dr. Lovell made use of one bit of mahogany, whilst I gently drew down his arm the point of the other. When he sat down ‘ he was perfectly easy.’ In a few seconds, ‘ the pain commenced as before ;’ in two minutes, ‘ it was very acute at the elbow and collar-bone ;’ in four, ‘ he became very uneasy,’ looked very red in the face, ‘ and begged the operation might be discontinued.’ His request was complied with, and he immediately went to bed, with a pulse at one hundred and twenty. Three quarters of an hour after (being still in bed) I asked him how he felt himself? He replied, that ‘ he was in more pain than when the surgeon took five pieces of bone from his leg in a compound fracture, which he unfortunately met with in Wales.’ It may, perhaps, be thought that he feigned all this. I cannot assert that he did not ; but he could have no point to gain by such a conduct, and he certainly must have been a very excellent mimic to deceive so many people.

“ This case excited much curiosity ; and on the 2nd of May, Dr. Moncrieffe, Messrs. Noble, Yeatman, Clayfield, Probert, Notcutt, Lax, and Joliffe, were assembled to view the effects produced by these two wonder-working pieces of wood. The man dreaded the operation so much, that he requested to have it done in bed. Mr. Clayfield and myself used the tractors. In a few seconds, ‘ a spasm was evident upon the *biceps flexor cubiti* ;’ in two minutes, ‘ pain in the arm and collar-bone ;’ in three, ‘ increased in the hand and arm-pit, and continued in pain some time after the operation,’ which had considerably accelerated his pulse. This patient could scarcely be prevailed upon to submit any longer

46 *Haygarth on the Imagination and fictitious Tractors.* [March, longer to their use, although he confessed that ‘upon the whole he had received much benefit.’

“ By this time the affair began to acquire publicity, and many visitors, both out of the profession and medical men, were eye-witnesses to the effects of these spurious tractors; and in order to render the trials the more ridiculous, two pieces of bone, of slate-pencil, and tobacco-pipes painted, were used occasionally with the same success!! Dr. Beddoes, to whom I communicated these facts, lent me a pair of the real patent tractors, for the purpose of trying them when my own failed; but I declare, that in no instance whatever were they used.

“ 5. John Peacock, a patient of Dr. New’s, had been afflicted for four months with a weakness of the hip, and severe rheumatic pains, brought on by working in a damp coal-pit. ‘At first the tractors occasioned considerable pains, and very restless nights; (I use his own words;) but after a few trials, he began to sleep unusually well, had fewer attacks of pain, and appeared confident and happy in the idea that a remedy had been discovered for his complaints.’ With such a subject, the event may be easily anticipated. This morning he came to thank me for my services, and he was always exceedingly grateful to Mr. Barton and Mr. Gaisford, who operated upon him in my absence. I cannot help mentioning one circumstance respecting this man. He came to me one day complaining of a violent settled pain in his forehead, which, he said, ‘almost distracted him,’ and requested me to ‘draw it out.’ The pieces of mahogany were drawn gently over his forehead for a minute and a half, ‘when the throbbing began to abate, and in two minutes had nearly ceased.’ In about three or four minutes the man arose from the chair, saying, ‘God bless you, sir; now I am quite easy.’ He was attacked with this pain only once afterwards, which affected his vision considerably, but it was removed as easily as in the former instance.

“ All

“ All these cases turning out so happily, it may be imagined that they are *selected*. I declare, however, that they are the first that occur in the minute-book ; and if I could imagine it necessary to add more, there are several remaining, equally successful.

“ Mr. Langworthy and myself were fellow-students at St. Thomas’s and Guy’s Hospitals, in the years 1794-5, and we have occasionally met in Bristol, during his residence as an agent of Mr. Perkins at the Wells ; but he must excuse me if I adopt the motto,

Amicus Plato, sed magis amica veritas.

“ In thus exposing this revival of Mesmer’s impositions, I do no more than comply with the above-mentioned gentleman’s own request. He openly threw down the gauntlet to the faculty, and insidiously begged them to examine ‘ *how the patent tractors produced such wonderful effects ?*’ and very cunningly led the inquirers through the mazes of Galvanism, in hopes of bewildering their judgments.

“ It would be as ridiculous in me to call in question the veracity of the accounts published by Mr. Perkins and others, as it would be unjust to degrade these marvellous pieces of metal (stamped with the magic word *patent*) below the level of ten-penny nails or tobacco-pipes ; since there can be no good reason why they should not be all equally efficacious. Let the world then judge between us ; for myself, I declare, that I have neither extenuated, exaggerated, nor set down aught in malice.

“ The gentlemen whose names I have taken the liberty to insert are well known, and will most assuredly contradict me if I have advanced any thing but the truth. I remain, Sir, &c.

“ *Bristol Infirmary,*

“ RICHARD SMITH.

“ *May 16th, 1799.*”

The above-recited facts demonstrate, in a very striking manner, the effects of mere imagination ; but a still more satisfactory report of this kind, authenticated by unquestionable witnesses,

witnesses, was sent to Dr. Haygarth, by way of postscript to the foregoing letter. A patient applied to Mr. Smith with *stillicidium urinæ*, who, upon having the wooden apparatus applied to his pelvis, in various directions, said, ‘I begin to feel something jumping in my inside,’ and presently after declared he felt an universal warmth in the skin. One day, however, the operator made use of ‘two ten-penny nails,’ disguised with red and white sealing-wax, and was not disappointed in finding the same happy effect. ‘In one minute,’ he tells us, the man ‘felt a smarting in his loins, and warmth of his skin;’ in two, ‘heat increased:’ in four, the operation ceased, when he said ‘the skin was very warm.’ A bystander asked him, ‘if he thought himself mended?’ He replied, ‘he would soon answer his question;’ and upon sitting down, suddenly exclaimed, ‘Yes, I am better.’ It was demanded, ‘how he knew it?’—‘When I used to sit down,’ said the man, ‘there was always a spirt of water thrown from me, but now I can prevent it.’ The experiment was two or three times repeated, and with the same result; in fact, the patient absolutely regained, in a great measure, the power of retention afterwards.

“The next case” which Mr. Smith treated “was that of Benjamin Quarman, who had received but little benefit from medicine, having been obliged for some time to hobble upon crutches with much difficulty, and in great pain. He attributed his illness to a violent cold, caught by working in the mud on a pair of dock-gates; I must add, however, that he had been all his life a plumber, which contributed, perhaps, not a little to his indisposition. Upon the first application of the tractors (which were formed from a piece of bone) to his thigh, he experienced a pricking sensation; in a few minutes he could hardly persuade himself that they did not cut him; at the end of the operation he could use his limb more freely, but complained that ‘I had driven the pain into his knee.’ He was under the care of Dr. Moncrieffe, who was present when

when Mr. Lax relieved him, in a few minutes, of a pain which had been for some time fixed in the shoulder-blade. This man continued upon our list till he was under the necessity of leaving the hospital; but he had no reason to regret the confidence he reposed in us, as he recovered considerably the use of his lower extremities, and was able to comb his hair easily, which the stiffness and pain in his shoulder had heretofore prevented him from doing."

Thomas Osborne was discharged from the sea-service in consequence of having almost lost the use of his leg. "He complained chiefly of an intense pain in the knee-pan. Being in the same ward with some of the before-mentioned patients, he was induced to submit to the same operation. This subject complained much of the tractors cutting him; which idea he had probably deduced from hearing Quarman express himself in that manner. The second application 'drew down' the pain into his leg.' This gave me an opportunity of expressing my determination of 'getting it still lower down;' intimating, that 'when it was once in his toes, the next operation would free him from it entirely.' It unfortunately happened, however, that the pain in his knee returned with great violence during the evening, and he cursed the tractors as the cause of his accumulated misery. No entreaties could afterwards prevail upon him to make another trial; he said, that 'they had tormented him out of one night's rest, and 'they should do so no more.' This was the first check I had experienced, and the reputation of my instruments suffered a little in consequence; as this fellow execrated them as much as they were adored by others."

Mr. S. next "undertook the case of Hannah Weston, who had been under the care of Mr. Allard, for a disease in the shoulder. About three quarters of a year ago she was attacked with a considerable inflammation in the joint, but the medical plan adopted in all probability prevented the formation of matter. The ligaments had, nevertheless, suffered considera-

bly, and there was but too much reason to suspect that there had been also absorption of the cartilage, followed by a deposit of bone, which rendered the arm immoveable. She had long despaired of recovering its use, and appeared to be reconciled to its loss, complaining only of a violent rheumatic pain, which prevented her from pursuing her ordinary occupation. There certainly was but little to be expected from this patient, and so it turned out. Two pieces of slate-pencil repeatedly relieved her pain, and she has had lately but very few returns of it. She imagines, too, that she can move her arm better; it is clear, however, to an attentive observer, that she moves the collar-bone and shoulder-blade merely, and that the bone of the arm is as fixed in the socket as it was before.

“ Here, then, we have two cases which did not keep pace with our wishes, but I do not conceive myself at liberty to suppress them on that account; neither will they be found to be altogether uninformative. We can at least deduce from them a proof, that the same causes, in different constitutions, will produce very different effects; for no man surely can believe that the specific difference of the substances employed could vary the results so widely. It will prove to us, besides, that there are certain bounds to the powers even of the imagination over the animal economy; and in the case in question we have seen, that although it may be equal to the prevention of periodical pain, it was incapable of stimulating the lymphatics to a removal of the newly-formed bone, or of restoring tone to the ligaments.

“ 10. On the 24th of May, happening by chance to visit the physic-wards with Mr. Dyer, a patient of Dr. New’s complained of great stiffness and occasional pain in the shoulder. I requested permission to attempt his relief by the new operation. In consequence, Mr. Gaisford began to treat him in the usual manner with the pieces of pencil. In a few minutes he was seized with a tremor in his limb, and so violent a shivering fit, that it was judged prudent to desist for the present.

sent. The next day I wished to repeat the trial, but he positively refused; alleging that his arm was quite well, and therefore it would be putting him to useless pain. It is worthy remark, that this man's countenance betrayed very evident symptoms of apprehension; and it was the general opinion of the by-standers, that the dread of experiencing a second time so severe a discipline, induced him to make use of his arm so freely.

“ This case bears a striking resemblance to Peter Seward's; both wonderfully depicting the powers of the imagination. Had these effects followed the use of the patent tractors, it would have been termed *metallic influence*, and would have been considered as resulting from their mysterious combination of metals.”

It cannot be denied that these experiments afford instruction of the highest importance. The innocent contrivances here practised must be allowed, by all impartial judges, to have produced results as deserving of universal belief and attention as the successful trials with Mr. Perkins's tractors. We have been long ago informed of similar effects produced in *London*, by means equally frivolous and delusive. But as the reports above narrated may appear to some persons so very marvellous, as to require confirmation by analogous facts, the author of the present pamphlet has brought forward a variety of other cases and observations to illustrate the influence of the passions on several bodily disorders: he then closes his subject with the following practical inferences, which were submitted to the consideration and discussion of the Literary and Philosophical Society at Bath:

“ 1. In the preceding narration, the effects ascribed to the fictitious tractors are greater and more wonderful than what are related to have been produced by the patent tractors of Perkins.

“ 2. Hence it may be fairly concluded, that the metallic tractors derive no additional influence from Galvanism or animal electricity.

“ 3. The detection of this delusion is not less complete than what is reported by the commissioners of Paris, in regard to Mesmer's animal magnetism: whether the number and competence of the witnesses, or the marvellous effects produced by the mere force of imagination, be considered.

“ 4. Had the trials at Bath and Bristol been instituted with metallic tractors only, they would probably, indeed undoubtedly, have deceived the sagacity of the medical witnesses in both hospitals, as they have done in many other places. It was the mode of trial with fictitious tractors which detected the fallacy, and exposed the truth so clearly as to remove every doubt.

“ 5. The rule which prohibits the admission of females afflicted with hysterical or epileptic fits, as in-patients into the Chester Infirmary, ought to be adopted in all hospitals. It is well known that medicines cannot always cure these disorders: and much mischief in producing them may be justly apprehended by introducing such a patient into a female ward.

“ 6. From the facts above related, and what are recorded by authors, it appears probable, that, in some districts, convulsions are liable to be communicated from one family to another, so as to become epidemical. Such calamities may be prevented by any medical or other intelligent and humane neighbour, who has influence and authority to hinder all intercourse between persons afflicted with and liable to convulsive disorders.”

X. Y. Z.

ART. V. *The Efficacy of Perkins's Patent Metallic Tractors, in topical Diseases, on the human Body and Animals; exemplified by two hundred and fifty Cases, from the first literary Characters in Europe and America. To which is prefixed a preliminary Discourse, in which the fallacious Attempts of Dr. Haygarth, to detract from the Merits of the Tractors, are detected, and fully confuted.* By BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS,

PERKINS, A.M. of Leicester Square; (Son of Dr. Perkins the Discoverer.) Duodecimo. 135 pages. JOHNSON, London. 1800. Price 1s.

IN this edition Mr. Perkins has attempted to set aside the validity of Dr. Haygarth's experiments with fictitious tractors, and to confirm his own account of the efficacy of his metallic instruments. We do not meet with any thing to produce the least alteration in the opinions we have delivered on the subject; but we are really sorry that the author should have recourse to so mean a subterfuge as the following, which can be regarded in no other view than a species of "*imposition*."

"At the very moment the writer was employed in these comments, he received the following Note from the Secretary of the Royal Society—the first and most respectable institution for the promotion of natural and useful knowledge—a Society which recognises only whatever may fall within the sphere of philosophic attraction; and from whom, of course, it cannot be expected that any thing would flow that tended, in the remotest degree, to notice the author of a 'gross imposition,' or to countenance the 'daring progress of empiricism.'

" 'To Mr. PERKINS.

" 'Sir,

" 'The Royal Society have received your present of Experiments with the Metallic Tractors; and I am directed to return you their thanks for the same.

" 'I have the honour to be, Sir,

" 'Your most obedient and very humble servant,

" 'E. W. GRAY, Sec. R. S.

" 'From the Apartments of the Royal Society,

" 'Somerset Place, Strand, January 16th, 1800'."

Now it is very well known that the Royal Society send the above letter to all who present them with any book, whatever it may be; and that this is merely an act of civility in course, and is never intended to express their judgment on the subject of the work itself. Not only so, but they have constantly
declared

declared in the Advertisement to their Transactions, that “it is an established rule with the Society, never to give their opinion upon any subject that comes before them; and therefore the thanks which are given to the authors of papers read at their meetings, are to be considered in no other light than as a matter of civility.”

It was with extreme disgust we perused the underwritten empirical puff in the General Evening Post of January 23d :

“The Royal Society, last week, voted thanks to Mr. Perkins, proprietor of the metallic tractors, for some experiments he sent them; which have determined the question, that the tractors do *really* have a salutary action in diseases, contrary to the suggestion of some who ascribe their effects to imagination.” — If the tractors have *really* the efficacy ascribed to them, they will not need such low and contemptible artifices to support their reputation. S.

ART. VI, *Mr. BLAIR's Essays on the Venereal Disease. Part II.*

(Continued from Vol. II. p. 547.)

THE important controversy to which this work relates, begins now to wear some appearance of an approach to its ultimate decision. To this desirable issue, the labours of Mr. Blair, and the facts he has collected, will greatly contribute. We therefore hasten to present our readers with an account of the additional information he has been enabled to bring forward in this *second part* of his Essays.

We are first of all presented with fifteen cases by Mr. Macartney, who appears to have had considerable opportunities both of seeing the venereal disease in its various forms, and also of putting the new remedies to the test. It will not be necessary for us to analyze his cases particularly. The impression they have produced on his own mind he has thus expressed : “I should feel myself highly culpable in acting
under

under any other opinion, than that of the *insufficiency* of the new remedies to perform a radical cure of the venereal disease." Mr. M.'s cases bear witness to the invigorating power of the new remedies, but he very justly observes that "the *radical* cure of the disease is properly the subject of controversy;" and, in eight instances out of the fifteen, "there is evidence of the incompetency of the remedy to *perfect* the cure of the disease."

Four cases are communicated by Dr. Hooper; and the evidence they contain is so strong and decisive, that we shall take the liberty of inserting them all.

"*Case 1.*—On the 1st of November 1797, Timothy Bryan, aged 22, of a lean but athletic habit, was deemed a proper subject for the trial of the nitrous acid. Some months previous, he had been under the influence of mercury, for pains in his bones, without any other symptoms of syphilis, the effect of healing a chancre of his penis, by the exhibition of a few mercury pills given to him in Ireland. A long mercurial ptyalism had greatly impaired his health, but caused his pains totally to subside, and he concluded he had experienced a radical cure; but to his astonishment, in about four months after, his pains returned, he was attacked with a sore throat, and small eruptions on his breast and other parts of his body. In this state; that is, with a syphilitic scab (which was every day increasing in magnitude) upon his right eyebrow, the size of a hazel-nut; copper-coloured spots in several parts of his body; dreadful nocturnal pains; a throat ulcerated, the ulcers exhibiting lardaceous surfaces and elevated edges; the nitrous acid was administered.—Mr. Philips, under whose immediate care he was placed, ordered as follows:

"R Acidi nitrosi ℥ij pond. Spt. Myrist. ʒjβ, Aq. puræ ʒxivβ. M. Cujus sumat æger coch. iij amp. ter in die.

"No inconvenience was experienced from the medicine, and the disease remained without any visible change until the 6th; when he informed me he found his appetite much mended, and
his

his pains if any thing abated. The appearance of the ulcerated tonsil was much altered; for, instead of presenting the lardaceous surface, it was of a florid hue, and apparently healing. Was not this the effect of the nitrous acid passing over the sore?—On the 8th, He was ordered to take his medicine four times a day: there was no apparent alteration, except that the scab on the eyebrow was more elevated, the basis enlarged and inflamed, and the ulcer of the throat was much more sensible, giving a considerable degree of pain every time he swallowed any of his medicine.—Nov. 12th, The ulcer of the throat was beginning to spread; the florid hue was disappearing; and the lardaceous surface returning; the scab on the eyebrow was increasing very rapidly; the night pains were much as before; but what gave him the greatest uneasiness now, was a pain immediately below the knee of the right leg, which felt like an incipient node: no inconvenience had arisen from his medicine.—Nov. 28th, The size of the scab had increased very much, the base of the ulcer was becoming moist, and its elevated and inflamed edges appeared spreading on every side. Upon examining the throat, two distinct ulcers were perceived; the one corroding the uvula and extending along the velum pendulum palati, the other upon the opposite tonsil. He complained that during the night his hands felt very hot, and that several spots had appeared on them: these were venereal eruptions, similar to those on his body. His leg gave him unsupportable pain; and in short, the disease was exercising its baneful influence with increased violence. During the exhibition of the nitrous acid in the above manner, I could not discern any alteration in the actions of the system; the state of the pulse and tongue, the action of the skin, rectum, and kidneys, was not affected in the least. A consultation was proposed; the result of which was, that the patient should take the following mixture every day:

“ R Acidi nitrosi ʒij pond. Theraic. com. ʒiv, Aq. puræ ʒxxxviij. M.

“ This

“ This plan was pursued until the 2nd of December. The ulcers of the throat continued spreading every day, and that on the eyebrow appeared to threaten the eye. Dr. Rowley and Mr. Phillips were now determined to lay aside the nitrous acid, and return to mercury, which was accordingly done. No sooner was the mercury introduced into the habit, than the man began to mend apace.—The eruptions, upon which the acid had no effect, disappeared in ten days; his pains abated rapidly; and in three weeks, the large ulcer on the eyebrow was healed. A cough and ptyalism, however, troubled him for some time.

“ *Case 2.*—Marmaduke Harper, aged 22, a strong but lean man, with dark hair and a healthy complexion, by trade a carpenter, contracted (about five years back) a chancre on the glans penis, and a considerable bubo in the groin, which suppurated: He continued his work with little inconvenience, and the chancre healed; but the bubo remaining open for upwards of two months, he sought for admission into St. Thomas's hospital. Upon relating the history of his disease, he rubbed in the mercurial ointment until his mouth became very sore, when he desisted. The bubo was soon healed; but he was detained near six weeks in the hospital on account of the ptyalism continuing: he was then discharged, and had every reason to believe he was perfectly cured. I could not ascertain the quantity of ointment he had employed; all that the man recollected was, that his mouth soon became sore, and that he then laid aside its use. From that time to within a month of the present (25th of November 1797) he had enjoyed good health, and had every reason to believe he never had acquired the disease since. The nature of his amours, he said, was such as to give him every reason to believe that he had never been exposed to it. At the latter end of September last his face began to break out, and his throat gave him pain when he swallowed. His nightly repose was disturbed by a pain in his head, which always came on when he got warm, and constantly left him before five in the morning. He had no pains in

the legs of any consequence. He complained that he had pains all over ; but those of his head only gave him much uneasiness. The eruptions on the face, forehead, breast, and back were hard and elevated, like a split pea, and of a copper colour : their size and situation varied ; some were as large as a four-penny piece, others very small. In some places they were many together ; but about the neck and ear there were none. The fauces appeared in general inflamed. The left tonsil was entirely destroyed by an ulcer which extended along the velum pendulum palati : the right was much swollen, and had three or four ulcerations on its surface. The uvula was extremely relaxed, but not ulcerated. The ulcerations of the fauces exhibited cupped and lardaceous surfaces, with callous (apparently) and ragged edges. In this state the man began the nitrous acid, on the 24th of November 1797, in the following manner :

“ R Acidi nitrosi ℥ij, Theriac. com. ℥iv, Aq. puræ ℥xxviij. M.—The whole of this was to be given in the course of the day.

“ Nov. 29th. The medicine produced no inconvenience ; the disease was increasing ; the eyes were inflamed ; he complained of having caught cold, and that ‘ his nose was very much ‘ stuffed.’ It was presumed, from his mode of articulating, that some internal part of the nose was now affected. The man was anxious to be bled ; which was accordingly done, to eight ounces. The state of the pulse, tongue, and skin, was precisely as before. I imagined he had a continual diaphoresis ; but *that*, he said, was peculiar to him. The secretion from the kidneys, however, since he began the medicine, was much augmented, and his bowels were very costive, a circumstance he had never experienced before. The medicine was now increased :

“ R Acidi nitrosi ℥iij, Theriac. com. ℥vj, Aq. puræ ℥ij. M.—To be taken every day.

“ Dec. 6. The throat appeared much as before. The surface of the ulcers was more florid and painful. The
night

night pains were increasing in violence. The nose was still very troublesome. The tongue was now very white; the gums appeared swelled, their edges were ulcerated, and when punctured with the lancet they bled profusely. The pulse was more frequent, beating 100 in a minute, which was 20 more than ordinary. The bowels were evacuated occasionally by an opening pill; and at the desire of the man, a blister had been applied, the evening before, behind each ear.

“Dec. 12th. There was no apparent benefit derived from the medicine, with respect to the alleviation of the pain or size of the ulcers; yet their appearance was changed. The surfaces, before lardaceous, (i. e. covered with a coat of tenacious matter like lard,) were of a florid hue, but the edges were still serrated and apparently callous. He complained that his medicine went rather against him; but said he would persevere, and do any thing to get well. I ordered him as follows:

“R. Acidi nitrosi ℥iv, Theriacæ com. ℥x, Aq. puræ ℔ij. M.—To be taken every day.

“Dec. 20th. He continued until this time to take his medicine, though with great reluctance, saying it would do him no good, and that it made his throat worse. The pains, he thought, were much as usual; he was confident they were not relieved. The eruptions on the face, particularly on the sides of his nose, were getting much worse, and two on his forehead were covered by a hard and brown crust. The ulcers on the right side had now totally destroyed the tonsil, and were much enlarged in size; but not the least in depth. The pulse was generally at 120; the tongue white, moist, and furred; the bowels continued costive, and the kidneys to secrete copiously. The man, who believed that he was taking mercury all this time, begged to have his medicine changed to pills; but being informed that his disease was of a very obstinate nature, and that he would soon experience benefit from his drink, he freely acquiesced in its continuance; and, to please him, he was also ordered a bread pill three times

1 2

a day,

a day.—Dec. 24th. The man was much worse, inasmuch as he complained of more pain, and that the eruptions on the face and forehead were much increased. The ulcers of the throat were becoming very foul and extending in depth. It was, under these circumstances, judged proper, by Dr. Rowley, Mr. Phillips, and myself, to lay aside the nitrous acid and use mercury.—He obtained by its means a perfect cure in two months, becoming every day better.

“*Case 3.*—Rebecca Alderman, aged 40, the mother of seventeen children, of a strong habit of body, and by trade a washer-woman, believed (near six months ago) she was infected with a gonorrhœa by her husband, who, she found, was then under the care of a medical gentleman for that disorder. Through her husband's persuasion, she took a few pills which he obtained her; the scalding and discharge left her in about a month, and she believed herself perfectly well. Six months having elapsed, she was seized with pains in the bones of her legs, and in her head. The pains soon became general; and an eruption appeared on the forehead, face, breast, and arms. They continued increasing, and her pains were so excessive as to make her dread going into bed. The blotches on her skin were of a mixed nature; many, especially those about her nose and lips, were hard, elevated, and red; whilst those on the other parts appeared situated in the rete mucosum, of a copper colour, causing no elevation of the skin, and differing very much in their size, some being as broad as a seven-shilling piece, and others as small as pins-heads. She had applied to several gentlemen of the faculty; all of whom made her sensible of the nature of her disease, and advised her to gain admittance into an hospital.—On the 6th of Nov. 1797, she came to this place, and told the particulars of her situation.

“The medical gentlemen did not hesitate a moment to declare her case to be venereal; such was the nature of the eruptions, which are better known by an apt eye than by all the description that can be given on paper. She was judged a proper

person for the trial of the nitrous acid: accordingly, she began the medicine the next morning, in the following manner:

“ R Acidi nitrosi ℥ij, Theriac. com. ℥iv, Aq. puræ ℥xxviiij. M.—The whole of this was given to her in the course of the day.

“ Nov. 10th. The medicine had been taken without any inconvenience; and no apparent alteration in the actions of the system, nor the disease, could be detected.—Nov. 18th. The pains were as violent as before; the eruptions, if any thing, appeared less, but particularly those which were elevated and hard. The pulse was increased in velocity; the bowels were very costive; the tongue rather white.

“ R Pil. rufi gr̄ xv. Fiant pil. iij, pro re nata sumend.

“ Nov. 20th. No alteration for the better; she said her pains were worse.

“ R Acidi nitrosi ℥iiij, Sacchar. fusc. ℥viiij, Aq. puræ ℥xxxvj. M.—To be given as usual.

“ Nov. 23d. The bowels continue very costive; the pains rather better; the eruptions as before; the pulse 100 per minute; the tongue white, moist, and furred. The opening pills were repeated, and the medicine continued.—Nov. 25th. The pains so violent as to prevent her closing her eyes all night. No alteration in the appearance of the eruptions.

“ R Acidi nitrosi ℥iiijß, Theriacæ com. ℥viiij, Aq. puræ ℥xxxviiij. M.—To be drank as usual.

“ Nov. 28th. The pains insupportable; no alteration in the appearance of the eruptions; the pulse 108; the tongue white, moist, and furred in its middle; *but the sides as ordinary*; which appearance, I think, is peculiar to those who take oxygenated substances.

“ R Acidi nitrosi ℥iv, Theriacæ com. ℥x, Aq. puræ ℥xxxviiij. M.—To be taken as usual.

“ Dec. 1st. The pains very violent; the elevated eruptions much better; the state of the system as before; a continually moist skin.

“ R Acidi

“ R. Acidi nitrosi ʒv, Aq. puræ ʒxl, Theriac. com. ℥j. M.
—To be given as before. The bowels continuing very costive,
the pills were repeated.

“ Dec. 6th. The medicine had made her sick two mornings; but she diluted it, and proceeded, though very contrary to her inclination, as she conceived it made her pains worse, and made her ill all over. The pulse was very full, and beating 120 per minute; the skin continually moist; the secretion from the kidneys increased; the gums swelled, and ulcerated along their margin; the eyes were very red, and the skin in general appeared rather of a florid cast; the bowels costive. Dr. Rowley and Mr. Phillips were of opinion, that during the exhibition of the medicine she had got much worse: she was therefore ordered to begin the mercurial ointment, which appeared to act like a charm. The pains soon left her; the eruptions gradually disappeared; and in a month she obtained a perfect cure.

“ Such, SIR, was the nature of the cases in which the nitrous acid was administered, and such the effects of its exhibition: I shall not presume to make any comment upon them. I have barely stated facts; the truth of which Dr. Rowley and Mr. Phillips well know, and the several medical gentlemen who have occasionally honoured us with their presence, among whom I reckon yourself.

“ Concerning the efficacy of the OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH, I shall be very short; as I have *never succeeded in ONE instance.*

“ Case 4.—Hannah Haillet, a young woman with a child at the breast, labouring under large venereal ulcerations in the fauces and internal part of the nose, to that degree that the greatest part of the fluid she attempted to swallow returned through the nares. I exhibited the potash for six weeks, without experiencing the least amendment. At first I was inclined to think she was benefited by its use; but the increase of the ulcerations, and the advancement of some mischief within

within the cavity of the nose, soon convinced me of my error. I began with half a drachm per diem, and increased it to nearly a drachm. The effects upon the system were similar to those produced by the nitrous acid; such as increased arterial motion, white and furred tongue, and, in this case, *very great irritability*.

“To enumerate several analogous cases,” Dr. Hooper remarks, “would afford no further information, as the event was in ALL *similar to the above*.”

Equally unfortunate appear to have been the trials, in cases of secondary symptoms, detailed in the following sections, by Dr. Lidderdale, Dr. A. P. Buchan, Mr. Hope, Mr. De Bruyn, Mr. Blizzard, Mr. Foote, Mr. Heaviside, Mr. Thomas, Dr. Thornton, and Dr. Mitchell of Chatham. The latter gentleman had given it in many cases. “Upon the whole,” says he, “the result of my observation is, that the nitrous acid has in many instances a powerful influence upon the disease, *in its first stages*; THAT IN OTHERS, IT FAILS IN PRODUCING ANY SALUTARY OPERATION; that, with proper management, it may become an useful auxiliary to mercury; but, until we have acquired more experience of the peculiarities of the disease for which it is adapted, *it will not be prudent to trust the cure to it alone*.”

In a subsequent letter Dr. Mitchell writes thus:

“I have given it in about NINETY cases, with various success; and my observations upon it may be reduced to the subsequent heads, observing, with a few exceptions, that the cases were chiefly with PRIMARY SYMPTOMS.

“1st, In the *gonorrhœa impura* it has proved extremely efficacious; for the most part removing the complaint without the assistance of any other remedy (except diluents) in the course of ten days, a fortnight, or at most three weeks.

“2nd, In cases of excoriation of the glans, attended with a copious puriform discharge, swelling and rawness of the præputium; sometimes with, and sometimes without a discharge

charge from the urethra ; these symptoms have speedily been removed by the use of the nitrous acid, and the failures in this variety of the complaint have been few.

“ 3d, Chancres upon the glans and præputium have healed, and buboes originating apparently from these symptoms have disappeared, under its use. Two cases of ragged sores, upon the cutis covering the *corpora cavernosa*, got well by taking the same remedy.

“ 4th, In a few instances, ulcerated buboes healed while the patient took the acid ; no mercury having been premised, or the quantity taken not sufficient to induce any change.

“ Such is the evidence which I can bring forward *in favour* of this new remedy : on the other hand,

“ 1st, It failed frequently in cases of chancre ; the sores, after appearing to have a healing aspect for a fortnight, remaining stationary for some weeks, although the remedy was pushed as far as the stomach and bowels would bear it.

“ 2nd, It failed often in dispersing buboes ; the swellings either continuing stationary, or increasing during its use : and it was given unsuccessfully in several cases of ulcerated buboes ; the sores remaining in their primitive state.

“ 3d, It has been administered largely, and its use continued for several weeks, in three cases of confirmed lues, attended with ulcers of the tonsils, nodes, nocturnal pains, and other symptoms of a SECONDARY AFFECTION, *without producing any benefit* : one of these men, an invalid from Gibraltar, who lost the bones of his nose, got well by a course of mercurial friction, and the *decoctum sarsæ cum mezereæ* ; the other two still resist every mode of treatment I have yet adopted.

“ 4th, In several instances, patients, after being to appearance cured, had the disease reappear in the form of chancre and bubo ; and these symptoms were afterwards removed by mercury.

“ I have frequently conjoined the nitrous acid with mercury, and, as I conceive, *with advantage* ; the disease apparently

rently yielding to a smaller quantity of the mineral than when given alone : I apprehend that this will ultimately be found to be the safest mode of employing it, both for the patient and the practitioner.

“ The sensible effects upon the system are in general salutary ; during its administration the appetite is for the most part keen, the discharge of urine is uniformly increased, all the functions are regularly performed ; and the patient is certainly not subjected to the languor, depression, and emaciation, which attends the exhibition of mercury, when given so as to affect the mouth.

“ The first exhibitions of it are sometimes apt to disagree with the stomach and bowels : this was in a great measure obviated, by involving it in mucilage and syrup ; and it was rendered palatable by the addition of some ardent spirit : *gin*, as peculiarly acceptable to the palates of most of my patients, was preferred.

“ In those cases where the acid proved serviceable, the amendment was soon apparent ; a few days shewing an evident improvement : on the other hand, if after the daily exhibition of two drams of the concentrated acid for fifteen or twenty days, no evident alleviation of symptoms could be perceived, (as far as my experience went) it should then be abandoned, or mercury called in as an auxiliary.

“ The acid employed, i. e. the *nitrous*, was principally made here : a great deal seemed to depend upon its being genuine, as a parcel sent to us from town did not appear to be so efficacious.

“ Having no theory to support upon this subject, the few remarks I now trouble you with are unbiassed by any prejudice, either for or against this medicine.”

Mr. C. Brown relates a case which ended successfully ; but it does not appear to have been decidedly venereal.

The second and third chapters are occupied by analyses of the late publications of Drs. Rollo and Beddoes. Of these

we have given a full account already; (LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW, No. III. for May 1799;) it will, therefore, only be necessary to observe, that the abstract contained in Mr. Blair's Essay is fair and ample. He notices the uncivil reflections cast upon him by Dr. Beddoes and his correspondents, but has not imitated the asperity with which they were conveyed.

P.

(To be concluded in our next.)

ART. VII. *S. Th. Söemerring Icones Embryorum humanorum.*

Chart. max. Francofurt. ad Mæn. 1799. Imported by
ESCHER, Gerard Street. Price 1*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

THIS publication contains two large plates, with twenty figures, exhibiting the different appearances of the human embryo, from the earliest period in which it assumes a distinct form to the seventh month. The figures are accompanied with accurate descriptions, and a preface, in which those authors are enumerated who have before published similar works.

The plates are executed with much exactness, and the work is not likely to lessen the well-earned reputation of its learned and laborious author.

S.

ART. VIII. *Annals of Medicine for the Year 1799. Exhibiting a concise View of the latest and most important Discoveries in Medicine and medical Philosophy.* By ANDREW DUNCAN, sen. M. D. and ANDREW DUNCAN, jun. M. D. Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Octavo. 580 pages. ROBINSONS, London. 1800. Price 8*s.*

THE first section of this valuable work is allotted as usual to the analysis of books, namely,

“ Dr. George Pearson's Inquiry concerning the History of the

the Cow-pox, with a View to supersede and extinguish the Small-pox—Dr. Edward Jenner's Further Observations on the Variolæ Vaccinæ—Dr. William Woodville's Reports of a Series of Inoculations for the Variolæ Vaccinæ, or Cow-pox; with Remarks and Observations on this Disease, considered as a Substitute for the Small-pox—Dr. Thomas Beddoes's Essay on the Causes, early Signs, and Prevention of Consumption—Memoirs of the Medical Society of Emulation at Paris—Dr. Nathan Drake's Letter to Dr. Beddoes, containing Observations on the Use of Digitalis in pulmonary Consumption—Dr. Richard Fowler's Letter to Dr. Beddoes, on the Cure of Consumption—Dr. Andrew Dufresnoy, on Herpes, Paraplegia, Convulsions, Chincough, Epilepsy, Tetanus, Vomica, and tubercular Consumption, and their Cure, by the Use of the *Rhus radicans* *Narcissus Pratorum*, and *Agaricus piperatus*—Memoirs of the National Institute of Paris—Mr. Fred. Alex. von Humboldt on the Excitation of muscular and nervous Fibres; with Conjectures on the chemical Process of Life—D. C. W. Hufeland's Journal of practical Medicine and Surgery."

The second section contains a number of very useful and important cases, the substance of which we shall proceed to lay before our readers.

1. *Suppression of Urine and Stools, occasioned by the Retroversion of the pregnant Uterus, which terminated fatally.* By the late Dr. Ross, Physician at Hamburgh. Communicated to Dr. Duncan by Dr. James Carmichael, Port-Glasgow.

The first symptoms attending the retroversion of the uterus, which took place about the seventeenth week after pregnancy, subsequent to a fright and some fatigue, was a difficulty in passing the urine, which from the beginning of January gradually increased till the 28th, when there was a total suppression of both urine and stools. "I saw her," says Dr. Ross, "for the first time, Tuesday the 29th of January, in the evening; the belly was prominent, hard, circumscribed, resembling a pregnancy

nancy of seven months ; she complained principally of a pain at the navel, which she could not bear being touched ; she vomited frequently ; clysters returned immediately, when attempted to be injected ; the legs and thighs were exceedingly oedematous. On examining per vaginam, I found the pelvis filled with a tumour, which scarcely left room for a finger to pass between it and the ossa pubis ; I could not reach the os uteri ; the meatus urinarius was so far retracted, that it was difficult to introduce a flexible catheter, which could not be pushed over. The tumour in the pelvis felt as if containing a fluid ; on pressing it back from the symphysis pubis, the urine gushed out. I continued in that manner to free the urethra from the compression of the tumour, till a very considerable quantity of urine was discharged by interrupted gushes ; the woman was much relieved, the belly became soft and flattened ; I could now just reach the os uteri with the tip of a finger, at the upper part, or above the symphysis pubis. The orifice of the urethra coming now in view, and the parts being more relaxed, I attempted again to introduce the flexible catheter, but in vain ; it would not go in above two inches, and required some force to withdraw it, as from a canal narrowed by spasm, or otherwise. I now concluded the swelling of the belly to be from the distended bladder, and that the pelvis was filled up with the retroverted uterus.

“ The tumour in the pelvis being now somewhat less tense, I made an attempt to reduce what I took to be the uterus, to its natural situation, as directed in *Lond. Med. Inquiries*, vol. iv. and v. but without success. By pressing upwards in the vagina, I could raise it as high as the brim of the pelvis, but could not bring down the os tincæ ; the tumour was, therefore, soon forced down again into the pelvis, probably by the pressure of the bladder, only half emptied. Whilst the uterus was raised perhaps the catheter would have passed. During my attempt to raise the tumour, I thought I could obscurely perceive the embryo in it, through the parts now a little relaxed.

I did

I did not continue my endeavours long, the woman being exceedingly refractory and unwilling, though encouraged by Dr. Janish; a practitioner of midwifery, and by a surgeon, who were present. Next day she continued to vomit; the urine and stools were suppressed, but she obstinately refused every kind of assistance, except clysters, which did not pass beyond the obstructing tumour, and the letting the contents of the pelvis be pressed backward, to allow some urine to be discharged by the urethra."

The woman was occasionally relieved by letting the urine flow off in considerable quantities, but would not suffer any attempts to be made to introduce a catheter. The symptoms gradually became more alarming, and the tumour, by the 2d of February, had reached the scrobiculus cordis, the upper part having a tympanitic feel. At this time she complained of the pain at her navel, the legs and thighs were less swelled, and the pulse natural.

" Sunday, 3d. February, the woman feverish, abdomen much on the stretch, as far as the scrobiculus cordis. The distended bladder could be distinguished reaching about two inches above the navel; the tumour above that was also somewhat circumscribed, and felt tympanitic. I let some very fetid urine run off, by pressing back the tumour in the pelvis; but it soon ceased to flow: the woman appeared to be in imminent danger. The puncturing the bladder above the ossa pubis was proposed.

" Monday the 4th, has passed some urine and mucous stools; abdomen rather less distended; not feverish; the swelling of the lower extremities quite gone. Had more active absorption taken place in the bladder and abdominal cavity, as well as in the extremities? Was the fever the cause or consequence of this? Did the bladder, perhaps now thickening, oppose more resistance to the distending force?

" Thursday 7th, belly less swelled, the upper part not tympanitic; has had glysters with effect; and has repeatedly
got

got rid of some urine, by pressing back the tumour with her own fingers, or by the assistance of the other gentlemen, or midwife. The woman attending her told me, that the rectum was full of hardened fæces; but, on examining, I found it to be only the tumour pressing on the rectum. I now prescribed her a laxative.

“ 8th February, has had several stools from the purge, but the lower part of the belly is swelled and hard, seemingly from the distension of the bladder only. By pressing back the tumour in the vagina, she discharged some fetid urine. The woman beginning to be a little more tractable, consented to a trial with the catheter; the one I had by me would bend so as to form a circle of about two inches diameter. I gradually pushed it forward about a hand-breadth, pressing back the tumour at the same time, yet no urine came away, only some drops of blood. With two fingers in the rectum, I now pushed a little against the tumour, but found it more resisting than before; perhaps from the bladder being less emptied. The catheter, when withdrawn, was full of coagulated blood. She has feverish fits every night.

“ This woman remained several days following nearly in the same situation, at times getting rid of some urine, generally in the way often mentioned; it was now less fetid. She had also stools by the help of laxatives; and being now less distressed with pain, could sit up great part of the day; nor did the belly swell so much as before.

“ When I visited her the 13th, found her feverish, and much weaker. She expressed a desire to be helped, and that she was willing to submit to any thing. I still thought it possible to evacuate the bladder through the urethra, and imagined the failure of success the fault of the instrument I had employed. Therefore, now prepared a canula of flattened silver wire, covered in a spiral manner with a single fold of the thinnest silk riband, one third of an inch broad, drawn through a saturated solution of elastic resin, which dried

dried immediately; the canula was also several times brushed over with the varnish. This instrument was so pliable, that I could turn it round my finger; at the same time, of such a size, that it could not easily double in the urethra.

“ Next day, the 14th, I introduced the flexible canula with the greatest ease, and drew off about three pints of urine. The bladder seemed to be quite emptied. I could not yet reach the os uteri; nor was the tumour in the pelvis sensibly lessened, which still felt like a fluid contained in a membranous cyst. I now placed the woman on her knees and elbows; with two fingers of the right hand in the rectum, and two of the left in the vagina, pressed on the lower part of the tumour, which easily gave way. I raised it slowly, in the direction of the axis of the pelvis, till I could feel the promontory of the sacrum, which projected more than usual, both with the fingers in the rectum, and with those in the vagina; by which I was certain that the uterus was raised quite above the pelvis. With the two fingers in the vagina, I now attempted to press back and bring down the os tincæ; but, as it made not the least projection, nor was the orifice open enough to admit the point of a finger, I could effect nothing; there was only a plain surface to act upon. I, however, continued these endeavours, at the same time pressing with my right hand, supported by an assistant, on the hypogastric region, in a direction towards the pelvis; by degrees the os tincæ elongated like a reproduction, and came into the natural situation. It was longer, softer, and larger, than in the unimpregnated state. During the time I pressed on the belly, and whilst the os uteri was recovering its natural position, some urine was discharged in jets. About five minutes were required to raise the tumour, and about fifteen, or more, to bring down the os tincæ.

“ Next morning I found the os tincæ in the natural situation, but rather more enlarged, and about two inches long; which seemed to indicate approaching abortion. I introduced

duced the common female catheter, which went up with some difficulty, in a direction towards, and as if pressed against, the parietes abdominis; the urethra seemed to be longer than usual. There was but a small quantity of whitish mucous urine discharged; some filaments of coagulated lymph came away on the catheter. She vomited frequently a dark-coloured stuff, such as she had thrown up a couple of weeks before. She got some of Riverius's draughts, with peppermint-water. When I saw her in the evening, the vomiting had ceased. She had passed her urine voluntarily the natural way, but was very weak; complained of a pain in the throat, probably aphthæ; pulse quick and small; respiration bad. I was informed next day that she miscarried at three o'clock in the morning, and died at seven. The child was nine inches long, of a vivid red colour, the limbs semi-transparent, the head a little flattened, one side of which of a dark colour, perhaps where it had not been exposed to the air. I was told that it came by the feet, that the upper parts remained long in the vagina, that no discharge of blood followed.

“ Although the preceding symptoms, the reduction of the uterus, and subsequent abortion, removed every doubt respecting the nature of the case; yet I offered to give some money towards the funeral charges, if they would permit me to open the body; which was then refused. However, the 18th, I unexpectedly got leave to open her, clandestinely and in haste.

“ The belly was flat and soft. I made an incision from the scrobiculum cordis down to the ossa pubis, the upper part of which protracted the cavity; but from the navel downwards, the containing were inseparable from the contained parts. The abdomen being also opened transversely, the object which first engaged my attention was, a dusky, red, flat body, about a finger thick, extending from its adhesion to the peritonæum at the navel. About two inches upwards it had some resemblance to a very large placenta, or rather to the uterus

uterus at the full time, suddenly emptied and collapsed; but, on blowing air into the urethra, proved to be the bladder, which, though distended, retained somewhat of a flattened form, like a spa-water flask. The omentum was contained mostly in the right side of the cavity, irregularly puckered, thickened, tender, of a half-rotten dirty appearance. It adhered firmly to the right side of the fundus vesicæ, where perhaps the vessels mutually anastomosed; at least, it had there a sounder appearance, and from thence upwards, for three or four fingers breadth, was fleshy and thickened. A flexure of the colon was firmly attached to the posterior part of the fundus vesicæ, the small intestines slightly so to that viscus, and to the peritoneum lining the muscles. This shews previous inflammation; and hence perhaps the pain at the navel. The external surface of the stomach, and of the transverse flexure of the colon, were slightly inflamed: they were both much enlarged, but neither at present distended. It may be presumed, they had occasioned the tympanitic feel mentioned above, but were now, as well as the liver, mostly covered by the ribs and sternum. The bladder was now laid open, from the fundus down to the ossa pubis: it contained no urine, was in the whole extent of this incision as thick as sole leather: the lower posterior part was also thickened and fleshy, but the back part of the fundus had the natural appearance, and was only about three times as thick as usual. At the lower part of the incision some white pus issued from between the coats of the bladder. I probed this little abscess with the female catheter, which went down behind the symphysis pubis. At this place it was easy to insinuate the catheter between the coats of the bladder, and, by moving it end or sideways, to separate them to any distance. I cut off about a hand-breadth of the fore-part of the fundus, above where it adhered; this was also easily separable into the strata; the internal stratum the most easily drawn off. The whole extent of this piece was, however, not a simple membrane, for ex-

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ternally muscular fibres and lacerti were very obvious; and it was easy to insinuate the flattened end of a probe between this muscular layer and the tunica nervea, covered with the internal cuticular tunic, now thickened and rough, also between these two last, and to separate them a little way. The next stratum, which I easily detached from the above-mentioned piece, had externally a somewhat smooth surface, but internally the same muscular appearance as the last mentioned; therefore both taken together only constituted the muscular coat, although so easily divisible. The greatest part of the thickness still remained divisible, though not so easily, nor to the whole extent of the piece, into three strata of a fleshy appearance, and plain surfaces; but on holding them between me and the light, I could see no muscular fibres; and observed, that these strata were not every where equally thick: beyond these last, a thick stratum of fatty gelatinous cellular membrane, covered with the external peritoneal coat. I do not mean that this should have any reference to the accurate anatomical description of the parts in a sound bladder; only mention what was obvious to my senses in the morbid state.

“ The bladder had, upon the whole, as well as the omentum, the appearance of parts in which there had lately been no circulation. The internal surface of the bladder had that appearance which the epidermis takes when long soaked in a watery fluid; there was, perhaps, in the last days, no secretion of the natural mucus to defend it from the urine. There were, notwithstanding the great distension the bladder had so long suffered, no inequalities nor sacculi. The catheter I used as a probe, or to separate the strata, took on immediately a copper colour, and soon turned black. I passed a finger down through the urethra as far as the external orifice. The canal was too wide to be filled with one, but two fingers entered with difficulty: it was now not longer than usual.

“ The os uteri, by examination in the vagina, was not very
I readily

readily distinguishable, being yet open and relaxed. The uterus retained the natural situation, was contracted, I suppose, to one third of its former dimensions, considering the size of the foetus and the quantity of water requisite to give such a perception to the touch in the vagina and rectum. It retained no mark of having been reflected. The external and internal surface, as well as the substance of the uterus, and of the placenta, still adhering to the fundus and posterior side, were through and through of a beautiful light red colour, like the upper part of blood exposed to the air, especially the external surface of the uterus. There was not the least coagulum contained in the uterus. The substance of the uterus was about a finger thick: it appeared to be every where perfectly sound. The right tube was turned down, and adhered its whole length to the posterior surface of the uterus; but by a connexion too firm to be recent, as the tube did not seem to be inflamed or gangrened, was indeed full of coagulated blood, contained probably in the cellular substance; but I did not take time to examine it minutely. The angle formed by the lumbar vertebræ and os sacrum was more acute and projecting than usual. The rectum appeared to be sound; but, though empty, was more extended in breadth than usual; between which and the vagina it was easy to pass the flattened hand down to the perinæum. The intestines were but moderately filled with air, nor did there seem to be indurated fæces contained any where in them; but I did not open the stomach or intestines, the time allowed me being elapsed. There was only about a pint of liquid, somewhat purulent, contained in the abdomen."

2. *Case of uterine Hæmorrhage, where the Placenta was expelled four Hours before the Birth of the Child.* By Mr. John Chapman, Surgeon, at Ampthill, Bedfordshire. Communicated by Dr. Pearson, Physician, London, F. R. S.

Mrs. O. in the eighth month of her pregnancy, was taken in labour of her fourth child on Sunday evening about nine

o'clock. At twelve the os uteri was dilated to the size of half a crown, the membranes having previously ruptured. The presenting part lay high, and was from its rotundity and solidity taken for the head. A second examination discovered the edge of the placenta protruding, the head remaining as before, with a trifling hæmorrhage. The placenta at length was entirely detached, the head remaining stationary, and the hæmorrhage rather increased. Immediate delivery being deemed necessary, another practitioner was sent for. At three o'clock on Monday morning the os uteri was completely dilated, and the placenta expelled through the os externum. From this moment the pains ceased. At five in the morning an attempt was made to turn the child; the hand was readily introduced into the uterus, which was spasmodically contracted in a longitudinal direction; the circular fibres acting without the consent of the longitudinal, which totally prevented the perfect introduction of the hand. Twelve drops of tinctura opii were given. In a short time she became easy. In half an hour after the pains returned, so that six or seven pains expelled the child entirely by the efforts of the mother, the head and arm presenting. The following remarks are added by the author :

“ 1st, What I wish to call the attention to in the above case is, that notwithstanding the placenta was nearly three hours from the first protrusion through os uteri to its complete expulsion through os externum, she lost very little more blood than women usually do when the placenta is expelled after the birth of the child.

“ 2dly, From the expulsion of the placenta to the birth of the child was full four hours. She lost *little* or no blood. How far does this suggest a different practice (from that in general followed,) I mean, of delivering the placenta previous to delivering the child, in those cases of alarming hæmorrhage where the placenta is situated on the side of or over the os uteri?

“ 3dly,

“ 3dly, The very singular and sudden effect produced by so small a dose of tinct. opii in removing the spasmodic contraction of the uterus offers to us a most excellent remedy on these occasions.”

3. *Observations on the Cow-pox.* By Mr. John Chapman, Surgeon, at Ampthill, Bedfordshire. Communicated by G. Pearson, M. D. F. R. S. &c.

Mr. Chapman is not willing to allow, with Dr. Jenner, that there may be a spurious cow-pock; “but that there is a *local* as well as *constitutional* cow-pox, sufficient evidence,” the author thinks, “is before the public. According to Mr. Thornton’s own account of his cases, he says, ‘From the long continued *local excitement*, I began to entertain a hope that the virus might imperceptibly have crept into the habit, and proved a security against the variolous infection.’ What could have been Mr. T.’s motive for not inoculating the man with variolous matter from whom he took the vaccine, who had properly gone through the constitutional symptoms? Also, in Mr. Jacob’s case, he seems to have the perfect recollection of every particular relative to the *local symptoms*, but has not the least recollection of any *indisposition* or *fever*. The evidence brought forward in these cases is equally strong against the small-pox itself. It is not enough, to secure our patients, for them to go through the *local symptoms only*. I believe, there is not any man living that thinks his patients secure till they have also gone through the fever and eruptive stage. In the seventh volume of Dr. Simmons’s Medical Journal for 1786, we see that Mr. Dawson inoculated two children with variolous matter. The incisions inflamed till the tenth day. Nineteen other persons were then inoculated from these, and every one had the fever and eruption of pustules at the proper time; but the two children did not sicken, as was expected; and, on the eleventh day, the inflammation upon their arms was considerably abated; and two or three days after this, there remained nothing but a dry scab. Mr. D. now assured the parents that they were secure from future

future infection, but they having insisted on their being again inoculated, a second incision was made on the arms of each. A fresh inflammation succeeded, and went on as before, till the ninth or tenth day, when the patients sickened, and had a smart fever during three days; after which appeared a considerable number of variolous pustules. We farther see, from Dr. Wright's account in the same Journal, that local small-pox symptoms will exist, and matter sufficient be generated from communication with others, from which the disease may be again communicated, notwithstanding the patient had gone through the disease twenty-three years before. This was exactly the case with Dr. Wright himself, who inoculated six negroes from a pustule on his own thumb, who all had the variolous fever and eruption.

“ In those cases of cow-pox where it did not prove a security, the evidence of having had the disease is chiefly procured from the patients themselves. Every man knows how inadmissible such evidence is, as they might have had the local disease without the constitutional symptoms.”

4. *Some further Observations and Experiments on the vaccine Inoculation.* By G. Pearson, M. D. F. R. S. London, Physician to St. George's Hospital, London; in a Letter to Dr. Duncan.

The object of this article is to relate some further testimonies, to shew that a person is unsusceptible of the cow-pox after having undergone the small-pox, as well as of having the cow-pox more than once. Dr. Pearson selected the three first of the following instances, because they were rather notorious, from the subjects of them being gentlemen who then attended public medical lectures.

“ No. I. Mr. Seagrom was inoculated in two places, Saturday, October 26th, with fluid limpid matter from a child present, and then in the eighth day of the disease, and which had been feverish all the preceding night and this day.

“ 3d

“ 3d day, Monday 28th, Parts inoculated had smarted and itched: they were now red, and a little swelled.

“ 6th day, Thursday 31st, Itching had continued, and very small conical tumours appeared in the parts inoculated, but they were not surrounded by any red areola.

“ 8th day, Saturday, 2d November, One of the pimples had arisen to the size of a very small pea, without any red areola; was conical, covered with a thick scab, and contained a limpid fluid, which I collected on a lancet, and inoculated with it the same day, but in a dried state, a child three weeks old.

“ 10th day, Nov. 4, A little brown scab only left on the parts inoculated. He has not been at all constitutionally affected.

“ No. II. Mr. Spencer was inoculated in the same manner, from the same subject, and at the same time with Mr. Seagrom, on Saturday, October 26.

“ Monday 28th, Little red tumours, like three gnat-bites, appeared on the parts inoculated, and they had itched a little. He was inoculated again from the same patient.

“ Thursday 31st, Parts which were swelled and reddish on Monday preceding, were now much less so. The parts last inoculated were only just red.

“ Saturday, 2d November, Scarce a red spot was seen, or any swelling. Complained that the parts had itched. No disorder of the constitution had been observed.

“ Monday, Nov. 4, Only little brown scabs left on the parts inoculated. Has not been at all constitutionally disordered.

“ No. III. Mr. Knight was inoculated in both arms on Monday, October 28, from the same patient, while present, who had afforded matter for the two preceding cases.

“ 4th day, Thursday, October 31st, Parts inoculated were elevated and red, like gnat-bites, but had itched so as to disturb the sleep. Inoculated again in one arm with cow-pox matter,

matter, and the other arm was punctured with a lancet in the same manner, but without any matter upon it.

“ 6th day, Saturday, November 2, Parts first inoculated were now scarce at all inflamed. The part last inoculated was red, as the other parts inoculated had been, but the part punctured with a clean lancet had scarce a red mark upon it. Felt yesterday a little uneasiness in the axillæ.

“ 9th day, Saturday, November 5, Only small scabs. No illness.

“ No. IV. I add to these, the case of the nurse to the child above mentioned under the cow-pox. She did not know that she had had the small-pox, but there was a scar apparently from it; and she had often associated with people ill of the small-pox. This female was inoculated from the child under her care, on Saturday, October 26, in two places.

“ 3d day, Monday 28th, Parts inoculated were a little swelled. Was again inoculated in two other places.

“ 6th day, Thursday 31st, Parts first inoculated were become four large pimples, and contained a little lymph, with which I inoculated the child of three years of age above mentioned, on Saturday, November 2.

“ I now inoculated the nurse for the small-pox; but this day, November 7, I find no effect from it. The places inoculated with cow-pox matter are covered with small very black scabs, and are quite dry.

“ No. V. An infirm child, six months of age, was inoculated for the small-pox in July 1799. Only a pustule was produced in the inoculated part, which suppurated and left a deep cicatrix; but a fever distinctly took place about the 9th day.

“ Wednesday, September 11, One arm was inoculated with recent vaccine matter, contained in thread, and the other arm was inoculated with a lancet stained with recent vaccine matter, but which had dried.

“ 3d

“ 3d day, Friday 13th, A little redness appeared in the inoculated parts.

“ 6th day, Monday 16th, Inflammation had quite gone off from both arms.

“ No. VI. Mr. Henderson, surgeon at Wendover, one of my correspondents, who has been active in introducing the new inoculation in Buckinghamshire, in his earlier years had the small-pox severely enough to have left decisive evidence of that disease in his face. He inoculated himself with vaccine matter, but with no other effect than that of the incision, which has since scabbed off, leaving an appearance like that which the finger exhibits after being cut.

“ The following instance shews that the lymph of the pustules in a person who has the vaccine disease locally, *i. e.* has pustules only in the part inoculated, and who has previously undergone the small-pox, can produce the vaccine disease, both locally and constitutionally, in a person who has not gone through the small-pox or vaccine disease.

“ As hath been above said, a child three weeks of age was inoculated in one arm, in one place, by a puncture with a lancet, stained with the lymph, from one of the pimples in the inoculated part of Mr. Seagrom's arm; and in the other arm it was inoculated in the same manner, in two places, with lymph from the arm of the nurse, case No. IV.

“ On the 4th day after inoculation two small vesicular pimples appeared on the arm inoculated in two places, with the decisive characters of the vaccine disease; but in the other arm a small black mark only remained.

“ This is now the 6th day, the disease is going on in the usual way, and I have already taken lymph for inoculation from the subject.

“ From this last case it appears that a resource exists of the vaccine matter in a person's own constitution, which may be applied to, when other sources fail, for the propagation of the vaccine poison. The same fact has been asserted with

regard to small-pox, by Mr. —, in the Medical Transactions, vol. i. p. ; and the following case shews, that the lymphatic matter of the pustule of the *local small-pox*, produced in a person who had gone through the cow-pox, both locally and constitutionally, can produce both the local and constitutional small-pox in one who has not had either the small-pox or cow-pox.

“ A child four years of age was inoculated for the cow-pox in the month of August last, and passed through the disease with the usual febrile symptoms and pustules. In October this child was inoculated for the small-pox, which produced a small, variolous, vesicular pustule on the 6th day. With the lymph of this pustule, Mr. Smith, apothecary, inoculated a child which had neither undergone the small-pox nor the cow-pox. The consequence was, an inflammation and pustules in the inoculated part, with a crop of distinct variolous pustules, at least 300, on the skin in general.

“ *Note.* In the cases I have seen in inoculation of both the local small-pox and local cow-pox, the pustule is neither so completely formed, nor does it pass through the same stages, nor is it attended with any extensive red areola, as happens in the cases of these diseases attended with constitutional affection; but experience and observation can only inform a practitioner justly of the difference of the phenomena in the two cases. Ignorance of the knowledge of them has been the productive parent of many erroneous assertions, both with respect to persons taking the cow-pox constitutionally more than once, and the small-pox after the cow-pox, as well as the cow-pox after the small-pox, as I have shewn (see my paper in the Phil. Magazine.) Persons who have undergone the cow-pox are susceptible of the measles: and I have no doubt that a person is susceptible of the chicken-pox after having had the vaccine disease; as among the two thousand five hundred already inoculated for the vaccine disease, no unsusceptibility has been discovered in those who had previously

previously gone through the varicella. I have as little doubt of the converse case, viz. that persons who have gone through the varicella are susceptible of the vaccine disease." A.

(To be continued.)

ART. IX. HENRICI CALLISEN, &c. &c. *M.D. Systema Chirurgiæ hodiernæ, in Usus publicum et privatum adornatum. Pars Prior.* Editio nova, auctior et emendatior. Hafniæ, 1798. Imported by ESCHER. Octavo. 800 pages. Price 14s.

AS this valuable work is purely elementary, and has been long known to the world, it will not be needful for us to do more than announce the present improved and enlarged edition.—The first part only is yet published; the second we shall expect with impatience. N.

ART. X. *A short Introduction to the Knowledge of gaseous Bodies.* By Dr. A. N. SCHERER, Professor of Chemistry and Counsellor of Mines to his Serene Highness the Duke of Saxe-Weimar. Translated from the German. TREPPASS, London. Octavo. 110 pages. Price 2s. 6d.

DR. Scherer, having been directed by his Serene Highness the Duke of Saxe-Weimar to contribute some assistance towards the advancement of chemistry, by means of public lectures, cheerfully complied with his desire; and selected the doctrine of gaseous bodies, and the application of them to the various purposes of life, as the subject of his first course. The work before us contains a general view of the different topics treated of, and the principal heads of the science, in as narrow a compass as possible.

This essay is rendered more interesting by a cursory view of the history of chemistry, which has been prefixed to it by the translator; not to mention a variety of notes interspersed through the whole. T.

MEDICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Art. I. *A Case of Elephantiasis of both Legs, from local Causes.*

By Dr. RICHTER, of Hanover.

(Illustrated by a coloured Engraving.)

THE subject of the present case is one Louis Klosbach, a stocking-weaver of Anspach. This man is twenty-nine years old, who, with the exception of a diarrhoea and the itch, has never had any complaint; being very poor, he neglected to employ proper remedies for this last disease, using only some domestic nostrum, which, so far from alleviating, increased the mischief. He continued to work, but observed that his legs began to grow thicker.

At this time a singular remedy was recommended to him. This was urine, with which he washed the parts affected several times every day. The consequences were, that the disease left the superior extremities almost entirely; there remained only an itching between the fingers when the patient was warm, or in bed, together with a slight efflorescence; but on the swollen legs the effects were worse. The ulcerated and pustular parts, indeed, dried up; but there arose a burning heat over all the surface of the skin; a red rose colour spread itself over the leg, and there appeared several very small lumps or knots about the size of half a pea; the skin was tight and glistening; a painful sensation of tension was felt in the legs, an œdema took place, and some of the cervical and inguinal glands began to swell. In other respects the general frame of the patient did not suffer. He did not consider his situation as demanding particular attention, and for some time wholly neglected all medicine, and continued to employ himself with his usual occupations.—Such was the description which he gave me of the beginning of the disease.

The erysipelas continued to spread itself, the œdema also increased; and a number of the small tumours uniting in various



G. Richter L. med. ad natur. del.

T. Medland sculp.

ELEPHANTIASIS of the LEG.

various places produced larger portions of callosity. The skin began to grow stiff, and impeded the free motion of his legs. Gradually the skin lost its sensibility, the hairs fell out, the swelling increased, and at the ankle there appeared two furrows occasioned by the motion of the joint. He now began to try many remedies, two of which only he could name to me. None of these did him any good; the tumefaction and insensibility increased; and the red colour of the skin changed to a greenish grey. Single pustules arose, which discharged a bad serum, and thus the appearance gradually took place which is represented in the plate. The thickness of the swelling of the right leg, which is much reduced in the drawing, was in the neighbourhood of the calf of the leg two feet ten inches, and at the ankle one foot ten inches in circumference.

Although this tumour was very inconvenient to him, yet he could move the foot and leg, and walk slowly. The whole surface of the right leg resembled a dirty greenish grey piece of leather. Upon pressing the finger strongly on the part, he did not experience any feeling in the skin, but in the parts underneath. The swelling was not scaly, or covered with scabs, but was for the most part smooth. At the knee and foot the coriaceous appearance was lost, and the skin was softer and more sensible, and was œdematous. In several places only the scarf-skin was loose and scaly. In a few points there were small openings which discharged an offensive serum, and in these places the patient experienced great itching.

At the ankle joint there were two deep furrows, where the skin was nearly of its natural colour.

There was one place where there was so deep an opening that its texture might be more narrowly examined. In this fissure was discovered a quantity of spongy, blood-coloured, tough substance, which resembled cellular substance, and from which an offensive ichor flowed. This loose texture, together with the red colour, became gradually less
marked

marked towards the surface, and were at last lost in a kind of true leather, as already described. Except two cervical and inguinal glands, which were enlarged, the patient was in every other respect in good health.

Although this case be not interesting to the practitioner, inasmuch as the disease is by no means cured, and indeed can scarcely be cured, without a total change of skin, yet there are many circumstances attending it which are interesting.

In vain have I taken all pains to discover the description of a similar disease in ancient and modern writers. Although it has neither the course, nature, nor causes of the true elephantiasis of the ancients, yet among the very numerous cutaneous diseases on which this appellation is bestowed, there is not any which has such pretensions to it. The external character of this singular complaint is such that I cannot give it a more proper denomination than elephantiasis. It has most resemblance with the elephantiasis of the Arabians, as described by Prosper Alpinus and Haly-Abbas, and yet that disease was always accompanied with symptoms of general disorder in the constitution, or else it appeared as an imperfect crisis relieving the general indisposition; but this was not the case in the present instance.

The source of this disease was doubtless the neglect of the itch, and the disturbance of the eruption by the constant irritation of the urine and friction. Predisposition to it arose from the patient's mode of life, his sedentary employment as a stocking-weaver, the exercise of his legs only, and neglect of cleanliness; these were sufficient to produce a stagnation and accumulation of fluids, and diminished perspiration, &c.

[The remaining part of Dr. Richter's paper is filled with speculations concerning the nature and causes of the complaint, and with observations from other writers; all which we omit, as they do not appear to us to throw the smallest light on the subject.]

K.

Art.

Art. 2. *An Account of a cutaneous Disorder, &c. with the Appearances on Dissection.* Communicated by Mr. JAMES DOUGLAS, A. M. of St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary.

To the Society of Physicians and Surgeons.

GENTLEMEN,

I TRANSMIT you the following anomalous case, with an account of the uncommon appearance upon dissection, as it seems to me worthy of a place in your Medical Review and Magazine.

I am, Gentlemen,

St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary,

Your obedient servant,

Feb. 8, 1800.

J. DOUGLAS.

Robert Hooper, aged 20, was admitted into the Mary-le-bone Infirmary on the 4th of November. He had been ill four days with a violent inflammatory affection. His pulse 120, very strong and hard; tongue white; no appetite; little sleep; his countenance expressed dreadful anxiety, and he complained of violent pains in his bowels, which were very open. He had never had the small-pox; but a short time previous to his admission he had been exposed to variolous contagion.

On the following day his whole body was covered with an eruption of a reddish appearance, and, in every thing but colour, much resembled a goose-skin, though not quite so prominent. It had some appearance of being in patches, which were, however, closely connected with each other, and upon the whole had some resemblance to the worst kind of confluent small-pox.

Nov. 6, The appearance was much the same; and as the eruption had not increased, all idea of small-pox vanished.

Nov. 7, The eruption was become of a darkish purple colour, but much less distinctly marked. It was still perceptible

ceptible on the 8th, but had vanished by the 9th, when it was succeeded by urticaria. This likewise disappeared on the 11th, and his health gradually improved.

Nov. 26, He again became very much indisposed. Pulse 114, of natural strength; tongue white; he complained of great pain all over, but particularly in his back. He was violently purged, had tenesmus, and discharged a considerable quantity of blood.

Nov. 27, He had still great pain in his back and bowels.

Nov. 28, He seemed to suffer dreadful agony, and an efflorescence had taken place over his whole body. His tongue was still white, as it had uniformly been during the whole course of the disease.

Nov. 29, The violence of the symptoms had increased; his face was a little swelled, and there were about seven or eight purple spots upon it. The lips were somewhat blue, and the tongue was covered with white mucus. Pulse 136, and full. At four o'clock in the afternoon he had a cup of tea, by which he appeared relieved; he then asked for another, but before it was brought he fell back upon his pillow, and died without a struggle.

There was considerable fœtor upon opening the body on the following day. The omentum adhered to the peritonæum immediately under the right lobe of the liver, which likewise adhered slightly to the adjacent membrane. The omentum did not extend below the transverse arch of the colon. There was no appearance whatever of any collection of fæces in the colon, or of any diseased structure in the alimentary canal, excepting that the colour of the intestines and mesentery was more blue than usual at his age. The mesenteric glands were considerably enlarged, and somewhat cheesy. The lungs were covered with red spots, like a miliary eruption, which seemed to pervade their whole substance. There was about one ounce of serum in the pericardium, and there were several livid spots, not quite so large as a pea, on the anterior surface

surface of the heart. There were many spots upon the kidneys considerably larger, and of a bright scarlet colour. No spots were seen on opening the head, but about two ounces of serum were found in the lateral ventricles, and about one ounce in the third ventricle.

Art. 3. *The History and Treatment of a Cutaneous Disease, prevalent at Uxbridge and its Vicinity.* Communicated by Mr. EDLIN, Surgeon.

To the Society of Physicians and Surgeons.

GENTLEMEN,

Uxbridge, 21st Feb. 1800.

I BEG leave to trouble you with the relation of a very tedious disorder that has prevailed in this part of the country for a considerable time past; and which does not give way to any of the remedies commonly recommended for the removal of cutaneous affections.

By some it has been termed a scorbutic itch; by others, the American or Russian itch; and some again have considered it as a species of the true itch; but, for my own part; I am rather inclined to consider it as a combination of the latter disorder, conjoined with the *herpes pustulosus*; and what leads me to adopt that opinion is, that the disease in question has symptoms common to both, yet does not by any means answer to the description given by authors of either.

It usually begins with a tingling sensation of the skin, attended with a prickly heat when warm in bed. This may last for a considerable time, and the uneasiness is generally relieved by rubbing or scratching. On examination, nothing is to be seen at first; but, as the disease advances, a few small pimples, similar to the *cutis anserina*, are observed under the cuticle, when the itching becomes so intolerable that recourse is had to medical assistance. It is then considered and treated as the itch: preparations of sulphur are used,

both externally and internally ; but, so far from alleviating the uneasiness, they only tend to increase it. Purgatives are therefore had recourse to, and repeated at intervals for several weeks ; at the same time a total abstinence from animal food, and other nourishing viands, is enjoined.

Under this mode of treatment all the symptoms are considerably aggravated ; the pimples come through the skin in a pustular form, filled with a yellowish fluid. These pustules appear in every part of the body, but are larger and more prominent in the muscular parts : in the course of a few days they suppurate, and a scab is formed on the top ; which afterwards dries away and leaves the skin whole, with a purple spot, the size of the pustule, which remains visible for several weeks after. This may be considered as the second stage of the disease ; and with a view of purifying the blood, sarsaparilla, antimony, cinnabar, nitre, ethiops mineral, with the whole catalogue of alterants, are had recourse to ; and, as the pustules die away, the disorder is considered as cured.

It may remain dormant in the constitution for several weeks, or even months ; during which period the patients are far from experiencing what may be called perfect health ; yet at the same time they are not so unwell as to have recourse to medical aid. Now the third stage may be said to commence : this is preceded by an unaccountable languor, attended with head-ach and sickness at the stomach ; which symptoms are relieved by the pricking or itching sensation, and soon after an abundant crop of rank purulent pustules make their appearance. These, after continuing several days, scale and dry away ; and others of a larger size succeed, which are sometimes so abundant as to resemble the natural small-pox ; but there is never the least degree of fever. A continued succession of these eruptions follow ; many of them ulcerate ; and, not unfrequently, the ulcers extend and run into one another, especially in the hands and feet ; so that they are sometimes rendered

rendered quite useless, and at last the poor sufferer is wearied out with vexation of mind and debility of body.

With respect to its being infectious, that I believe is a disputable point. I could bring several instances to prove that it was not actually catching; or rather, that other persons who slept with the infected ones, were not susceptible of the complaint. On the other hand, I can state a case that would seem to prove that it really was so. A young lady, of a delicate habit of body, came down here on a visit from London, to a house where three children were ill of the disorder: she slept with one of them, and after some stay returned home. In the course of a few weeks she was attacked with the same complaint, and gave it to her brother and sister, who were equally bad in their turn. But while I state this as a fact, I by no means bring it forward with a view of clearly ascertaining that it was an infectious complaint.

I have met with six persons lately who have submitted to a course of salivation, under the hope of totally eradicating this most troublesome disease, but without experiencing that relief which they had been induced to expect. And at present I have under my care two children, who are in a most deplorable condition: one of them has for some time past been deprived of the use of his limbs, from the swelling and the innumerable quantity of pustules; and the other is prodigiously sprinkled. It is now upwards of six months since it first broke out; and notwithstanding the use of a variety of remedies (among others, sea bathing,) not the least relief has been experienced. With respect to my own mode of treatment, it has been extremely varied: I have tried, either separately or combined, almost every article that has been recommended in scorbutic and herpetic complaints, with alternate success, till I got into the use of the following, which has answered my most sanguine expectations; and since I have adopted it, the cure has been completed in the course of a few weeks, nor have I yet met with one instance of a relapse.

As it is evidently a disease of debility, the first reasonable hope of success was to strengthen the stomach, to repair the mischief done by purging and poor living. I therefore, in the first place, recommended milk for breakfast and supper to those patients where it did not disagree with the stomach: plain meats, shell-fish, jellies, and other nourishing articles, were used instead of a vegetable diet; and I have usually desired that porter at dinner, and a glass of generous port, might be taken afterwards, in preference to small beer or water. With respect to medicine, I have for some time past invariably used the following formulæ. It may appear a good deal like quackery to say, that in every case it should be adopted; yet I can safely assert, that I have not had occasion to make the least alteration in it for many months past:

R Pulv. cinchon. ʒj, Natron. ppt. ʒß, Syr. zinzib. q. s. F. elect. cujus sumat coch. min. nocte et mane quotidie.

R Hydrarg. muriati—Antimon. tartar. āā gr̄ vj, Aq. distillat. ʒiij, Tinct. lavend. comp. et Tinct. opii āā ʒß, M. F. elixir, cujus cap. gutt. v omni die, circa horam 11^{am} matutin. et 5^{am} P. M. ex ʒjv decoct. cort. inter. ulmi.

R Ung. adipis suillæ ʒjß, Lact. sulphur. ʒiij, Kali ppt. ʒj, Calc. hydrarg. albi et Ammon. muriat. āā ʒij, Ol. sassafras. gutt. xx. M. F. unguentum, quocum bene inunguntur partes affect. nocte maneque.

Regarding it as a cutaneous affection, I conceived that the most probable chance of affording relief would be to determine the morbid matter to the skin, the outlet pointed out by nature for its expulsion. With this view the elixir has been exhibited, which answers the purpose most effectually; for after it has been used some time, a large crop of these abominable pustules make their appearance, and if they are not prevented by the ointment, they increase in size, and suppurate. Large painful tumours are then formed, which after a time scab, dry away, and others follow. This I have frequently seen when the patients have refused to make use of the ointment

ment on account of its ill-smell. In some cases, where the drops have not readily been determined to the skin, I have found that immersion in the warm bath has greatly facilitated the end I had in view.

As soon as fresh pustules began to appear, I had recourse to the ointment, which occasioned a good deal of smarting, especially in those places where the cuticle had been abraded; and sometimes it caused the hands and feet to swell considerably: however, by persevering in its use, all these disagreeable symptoms shortly disappeared, and the patients got well.

I have penned these remarks under the pleasing hope that they may (through the medium of your excellent Review) be noticed by professional men, in those districts where this disorder has made its appearance; and, I am persuaded, if a fair trial be given to the remedies I have taken the liberty to suggest, that they will be found to answer every reasonable expectation. Under this impression I remain, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

A. EDLIN.

P. S. I shall take an opportunity, some time hence, to transmit the Society the results of several trials I have made with the Digitalis in inflammatory fever.

Art. 4. *Observations on the Muriate of Lime in Scrophula.*

By a Correspondent.

To the Society of Physicians and Surgeons.

GENTLEMEN,

Feb. 6th, 1800.

I HAVE read with much satisfaction your ample extracts from Hufeland's interesting work on scrophula; but I have been surprised to see that Dr. H. should assert, that the muriate of lime is more irritating (*London Medical Review and Magazine*, vol. ii. numb. xi. p. 450) than the muriate of barytes,

barytes, and that it should be used with more precaution. I am warranted, by experience, to assure your readers that the muriate of lime may be given in much larger doses than those prescribed by Dr. H. and that it is a very safe and efficacious medicine. Indeed, the formulæ, which this celebrated physician gives in his book, of these two medicines, contradict his remark respecting the greater degree of irritation produced by the muriate of lime; for the proportion of muriate of lime to one ounce of water is \mathfrak{zj} , and the dose (as he states) thirty drops; whereas, the proportion of muriate of barytes to \mathfrak{zj} of water is only $\mathfrak{z\ss}$, and the dose only ten or fifteen drops. Now, if the muriate of lime were more irritating than the muriate of barytes, it should be prescribed in smaller doses; but, from a comparison of the two formulæ, we see that he prescribes it in larger quantities, thirty drops of the first of these solutions containing four times as much of the earthy salt as fifteen drops of the last-mentioned solution.

It is now more than two years since I first met with an account of the antiscrophulous virtues of the calx muriata, or muriate of lime, in a foreign publication*. That account induced me to give it a trial in several cases, which have come under my care since that time; and I have the satisfaction to state, that I have found it a very valuable remedy in this disease. I direct a given quantity of chalk to be saturated with the muriatic acid, to be diluted largely with water, to be filtered through paper, and then to be evaporated to dryness. Before it has cooled, this calx muriata is to be put into a bottle with a ground stopple, as on exposure to the air it quickly deliquesces. The dose to children, three to five grains; to adults, fifteen to twenty grains every morning, or twice a day in some cases. If it purges, the dose should be diminished. The vehicle may be gruel, or syrup and water, to children; and peppermint-water to adults.

R. P.

* Vide SCHAUD *De Febris Periodum habentibus*, 1797; in the notes, respecting scrophula, at p. 53, &c.

Art. 5. *Successful Event of a bad Wound of the Tongue.*

Communicated by Mr. GAY SHUTE, of Salisbury.

To the Society of Physicians and Surgeons.

GENTLEMEN,

Salisbury, March 8, 1800.

IF the communication of the case hereto subjoined be likely to convey any satisfaction to your medical readers, you will oblige me by the insertion of it in your next Magazine.

I am, Gentlemen, &c.

GAY SHUTE.

John Britain, aged 13 years, having fallen from his horse, received a severe wound in his tongue; two hours after the accident he was admitted into the Salisbury Infirmary, when I examined it, and found that his teeth, by penetrating through the substance of his tongue about half an inch from its apex, had nearly divided it; the severed part adhering by a very small portion of muscular fibre. An effusion of blood, in no considerable quantity, but a copious secretion of saliva, ensued. Under these circumstances I united the incision by three ligatures, and directed a lotion with Mel rosæ to be kept constantly in his mouth.

The next morning I found he had slept some hours; even without the assistance of an anodyne, which, by neglect, was not administered. The wound appeared in a very promising state; and I had also the satisfaction to hear him pronounce distinctly: at the end of a fortnight, by this manual operation alone, the cure was perfectly effected.

I am induced to relate the simple treatment of this case, to shew that incisions of the tongue may be brought into contact as safely as any other recent wounds, unattended with those dreadful concomitants of locked jaw, or other similar affections, often apprehended. It is evident, that, had this operation been neglected, the part divided must have been removed by excision, and he would have lost the most useful part of this organ; whereas, its functions are now perfectly restored,

Art,

Art. 6. *A Communication from Dr. BEDDOES, respecting an intended Work by Mr. Davy and himself—the Efficacy of Acids in Syphilis—and Lectures on Animal Nature.*

To the Society of Physicians and Surgeons.

GENTLEMEN,

Clifton, March 11th, 1800.

YOU will see by the enclosed paper, that I have offered the Bristol public an opportunity of instruction in a branch of knowledge, of which I am afraid they do not understand the importance sufficiently to regard the offer.

A work by Mr. Davy and myself, on the nature of the gas which has such extraordinary properties, and on its successful use in palsy, is in the press.

I have received confirmations of the efficacy of acids in syphilis, from the East Indies. These, together with domestic proofs of the same fact, will appear in our *Researches*. I have still no doubt but practitioners, when they meet with symptoms forbidding the use of mercurials, or where mercurials have been used in vain, will find these newly tried substances to possess a real antisymphilitic power. I cannot pretend to say in what proportion of cases this treatment will succeed. I have been informed that (in a late publication on the venereal disease) a medical person in London has asserted things respecting venereal patients examined by him at the Pneumatic Institution, which are utterly groundless. I cannot enter into more minute particulars at present; but I shall soon procure the publication, and, if my information shall have been exact, will formally contradict the assertion.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS BEDDOES.

[We here subjoin a copy of the paper transmitted to us by Dr. Beddoes,]

“ *Lectures*

“ *Lectures on the Laws of Animal Nature, and on the Means of preserving the System from Injury upon the most important Occasions of common Life.*

“ AT some convenient place in Bristol, Dr. Beddoes proposes to attempt a popular exposition of the principles of the animal economy, with their application to the purposes of individual and domestic welfare, upon a plan widely different from that of any existing publication. For his opinion on the advantage of disseminating physiological information, he may refer to his Lecture introductory to Messrs. Bowles and Smith's Course of Anatomy; and an exemplification of the manner in which he thinks the subject ought to be treated, will be found in his Essay on Consumption.

“ Heretofore an acquaintance with the causes of his personal condition has seldom been numbered among the *accomplishments* of the scholar, or the *qualifications* with which the man of business is fitted out for success in the world. Yet it will be confessed, that neither success in business, nor proficiency in the sciences accounted *liberal*, are separately sufficient for rendering the condition of human life desirable. And, in fact, to endeavour, by any combination of these materials, to construct a system of personal happiness, is to project an edifice which shall stand secure without a foundation.—Of a truth so long and so generally neglected, a portion of the public, it is believed, begins to feel that degree of conviction which operates upon conduct. In this belief, the present opportunity of instruction is offered to those who may be desirous of it.

“ If it be allowed that the moral and physical attributes of human nature are inseparable, persons interested in the art of education will scarce require to be reminded of the value of that species of knowledge which the lectures, here announced, are intended to communicate.

“ They ought to prevent many of those mortal bruises which travellers along the road of life give themselves for want

of knowing the quality and position of the objects in their way.

“ By presenting a just estimate of *that art*, to the operations of which almost every one is sooner or later doomed to submit, they should afford some protection against gross medical incapacity or fraud.

“ They should reduce to their just value many of those axioms that wander about the world concerning what is wholesome or unwholesome in diet or exercise; axioms which the instinct of self-preservation impels men to take up; and upon which, however loosely adopted, they act with as full assurance as if they knew them to have the most solid foundation in physiological science.

“ Numbers fall victims to their own impatience under illness, or to the wavering conduct of their friends. Frequently, in the onset of dangerous diseases, people, by suffering themselves to be amused by trifling domestic expedients, lose an opportunity which no medical skill can ever retrieve. Upon these evils the prevalence of juster ideas would act as a check. Nor is it paradoxical to suppose that the mortality among infants would be smaller, and debility of constitution at all periods of life more rare, if parents (however instructed in other things) were not in common nearly upon a level with nurses in that which it so much imports them to possess—an acquaintance with the powers that operate to the injury or advantage, the destruction or preservation, of the objects of their affection.

“ The author further hopes (if he may repeat his own words) to contribute towards preventing the ‘ ignorant from tampering with the sick; towards promoting the ascendancy of science over intrigue; alluring curiosity from the pernicious frivolities of literature, and elevating the conceptions of men to the level of their highest interests.’

“ As the whole course will be connected, the tickets will not be transferable. The number of lectures cannot be deter-

mined beforehand; but that there may be little chance of exclusion by reason of narrow circumstances, the subscription is fixed at one guinea. The lectures will be calculated for both sexes and different ages; they will be delivered in the evening, and commence some time in April next, probably near the middle of the month, provided fifty persons shall have entered their names by the 31st of March. This condition is indispensable. Without a tolerably numerous audience, the author presumes he could bestow his time in a manner more advantageous to the public.

“Subscriptions received by Mr. Sheppard, bookseller, opposite the Exchange, with whom conditions for printing a Syllabus may be seen.

“At the Medical Pneumatic Institution, Dowry Square, Hotwells, out-patients continue to be received every Sunday and Wednesday morning. It is particularly wished that the consumptive, and those troubled with obstinate venereal symptoms which have resisted mercury, as also persons who have lost the use of their limbs from the palsy, would apply. Two or three paralytic patients could now be received into the house.

“*Rodney Place, Clifton, March 3, 1800.*”

Art. 7. *Prize Question of the Lyceum Medicum Londinense for 1800.*

WE are informed (by an official letter from Mr. Guthrie, register of the Society) that the prize subject of the *Lyceum Medicum Londinense* for the present year is,

“*The Nature and Treatment of Erysipelas.*”

Our readers will recollect that we gave an account of the REGULATIONS concerning the prize medal in a former number: (London Medical Review and Magazine for June 1799, page 412 of vol. i.)

Art. 8. *On the Preparation and Effects of the Calx Zinci Hydrargyrata.* By Mr. MOLEVITZ, of Stutgard.

THIS new antisyphilitic remedy is prepared thus :

Take two parts of pure mercury and one part of turpentine. These are to be rubbed together, not only until the globules of quicksilver have disappeared, but for an hour afterwards. Then two parts of the oxyd of zinc, obtained by precipitation from white vitriol by means of kali, are to be added, and the whole beaten up into a mass ; which, if too soft, may be rendered of a proper consistence by means of powder of cinnamon. The mass is to be divided into pills of two grains each.

According to the opinion and testimony of Mr. Molevitz, a surgeon at Stutgard, this preparation produces a soothing and tonic effect, which counteracts those bad symptoms that mercury often excites. One pill is to be taken morning and evening, but this dose is to be increased according to circumstances. It seldom salivates or increases any secretion or excretion, but is said to be wonderfully efficacious in curing syphilis.

K.

Art. 9. *Monthly Catalogue of new and intended Publications.*

NEW BRITISH PUBLICATIONS.

1. **A** SHORT Introduction to the Knowledge of gaseous Bodies. By Dr. A. N. SCHERER, Professor of Chemistry and Counsellor of Mines to his Serene Highness the Duke of Saxe-Weimar. Translated from the German. London, Treppass. Octavo. 110 pages. 1800. Price 2s. 6d.

2. A Continuation of Facts and Observations relative to the Variolæ Vaccinæ, or Cow-pox. By EDWARD JENNER, M. D., F. R. S. &c. Quarto. 42 pages. London, Law. 1800.

3. Transactions of a Society for the Improvement of Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge, Illustrated by copper-plates.

plates. Vol. II. London, Johnson. Octavo. 378 pages.
1800. Price 7s. 6d.

4. Discourses on the Nature and Cure of Wounds. By JOHN BELL, Surgeon. Second Edition. Two volumes, 8vo. London, Cadell and Davies. 1800. Price 4s.

5. Observations on the Diseases which prevailed on board a Part of his Majesty's Squadron on the Leeward Island Station, between November 1794 and April 1796. By LEONARD GILLESPIE, M. D. Surgeon and Agent to the Naval Hospital at Fort Royal, Martinique. London, Cuthell. 8vo. 239 pages. 1800. 5s. boards.

6. Elements of Chemistry and Natural History ; to which is prefixed the Philosophy of Chemistry. By A. F. FOURCROY. Fifth Edition, with Notes ; by JOHN THOMSON, Surgeon, Edinburgh. In three volumes royal 8vo. London, Longman and Rees. Price 1l. 11s. 6d. boards.

7. The Principles of modern Chemistry systematically arranged. By Dr. FREDERIC CHARLES GREN, late Professor at Halle in Saxony. Translated from the German. With Notes and Additions concerning later Discoveries, by the Translator ; and some necessary Tables. Octavo. Two volumes, 8vo. and seven plates. Price 16s. London, Cadell and Davies.

8. A Series of Engravings, accompanied with Explanations, which are intended to illustrate the morbid Anatomy of some of the most important Parts of the human Body. Fasciculus III. Comprehending the chief morbid Appearances of the Pharynx, the Œsophagus, and the Stomach. By MATTHEW BAILLIE, M. D. F. R. S. &c. Royal 4to. London, Johnson. 1800. Price 14s.

9. Medical Facts and Observations. Vol. VIII. 8vo. London, Callow. Price 4s. 6d. in boards.

10. Elements of Chemistry ; comprehending all the most important Facts and Principles in the Works of Fourcroy and Chaptal : with the Addition of the more recent chemical Discoveries which have been made known in Britain and on
the

the Continent. By ROBERT HERON. 2 vols. 8vo. London, Longman and Rees. 1800. Price 12s. in boards.

NEW FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

11. De Morbis Ligamentorum ex Materiei animalis Mixtura, et Structura mutata cognoscendis, Auctor GODOFREDUS GOETZ, Gedanensis, cum Observatione Mecrelii. 4to. Berlin. 1799. Price 5s. cuts, sewed. Imported by Remnant.

12. MARTIN CHRISTIAN GOTTLIEB LEHMANN, Halsati, Seminarii Regii Philologici Sodalis; de Sensibus externis Animalium exsanguium Insectorum scilicet ac Vermium Commentatio, in Certamine literario Civium Academiae Georgiæ Augustæ, Premio a Rege M. Britanniaë aug. constituto, ab illustri Medicorum Ordine ornata. 4to. Göttingen. 1799. Price 2s. 6d. sewed.

13. BOEHMERI, G. R. Commentatio Botanico-litteraria de Plantis. 8vo. Lipsiæ. 1799.

14. CAPPEL, L. C. G. de Pneumonia Typhode sive nervosa, adnexis hujus Morbi Historiis. 8vo. Gottingæ. 1799.

15. LINK, H. F. Philosophiæ Botanicae novæ, s. Institut. phytographicarum Prodomus. Gotting. 1798. Octavo. Price 2s. 6d.

16. HEDWIG, J. Filicum Genera et Species recentiori Methodo accommodatæ analytice descriptæ, Iconibusque ad Naturam pictis illustratæ. Folio. Lipsiæ. 1799.

17. HOSE, J. A. Herbarium vivum Muscorum frondosorum, cum Descriptionibus ad Normam Hedwigii. Part I. 8vo. Lipsiæ. 1799.

18. HAPPE, A. T. Botanica pharmaceutica, exhibens Plantas officin. quarum Nom. in Dispensat. recens, cum Icon. color. etc. 57 Fasciculi. Berol. 1794—99. Folio. Price 28l. 10s.

19. HOFFMÄN, G. F. Plantæ Lichenosæ delineatæ et descriptæ. 12 Fasc. c. Fig. color. Lips. 1789—99. Folio. Price 10l. 10s.

8. PLENK,

20. PLENK, J. J. *Icones Plant. medicinal. sec. Systema Linnæi digest. cum Enumeratione Virium et Usus medici, chirurgici, et diætetici.* 6 Cent. cum Fig. depictis et numer. Latin. et German. Viennæ. 1788—99. 6 vol. Fol. maj. Price 72*l*.

21. WENDLAND, J. C. *Hortus Herrenhusanus, seu Plantæ rariores quæ in Horto Regio Herrenh. coluntur.* Fasc. 1. c. Fig. col. Hanover. 1799. Folio. Price 14*l*. 6*s*.

22. ESPER, R. J. *Icones Fucorum, cum Charact. System. Synom. Autor. Descript. nov. Specierum.* 3 Fasc. c. Fig. color. Latin. et German. Nürnb. 1797—99. Quarto. Price 3*l*. 15*s*.

23. WENDLAND, F. C. *Ericarum Icones et Descriptio.* Fasc. 1—3. c. Fig. color. Hanov. 1798—99. Quarto. Price 1*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*.

24. PLONCQUET, G. G. *Lib. continuatur Biblioth. Med. et Chirurg. seu Nova Biblioth. Med. et Chirurg. Vol. I. A—H.* Tubing. 1799. Quarto. Price 1*l*. 5*s*.

25. HAPPE, A. T. *Plantæ selectæ et rariores.* 24 Fasc. cum Fig. color. Berol. 1794—99. Folio. Price 12*l*.

26. LODER, J. C. *Tabulæ anatomicæ, quas ad illustrandum humani Corporis Fabricam, &c.* Fasc. 1—6. Vinariæ. 1794—99. Folio. Price 6*l*.

27. SOEMMERING, S. T. *Tabulæ Embryonum humanor.* c. Fig. Fol. alt. chart. velin. Francf. 1799. Folio. Price 1*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*.

28. MURRAY, A. *Descriptio Arteriarum Corporis humani, in Tab. redacta, quam antea Dissertat. Forma exhibuit.* Lips. 1799. Quarto. Price 5*s*.

29. *Récherches sur l'Existence du Frigorique et sur son Réservoir commun.* Par J. P. BRES. A Paris, chez Fuchs.

30. HEDWIG, J. *Analytica Descriptio Filicum Gener. et Specier. recentior. Methodo accommodata, Icon. ad Natur. pict.*

104 *Catalogue of new and intended Publications.* [March,
pict. illustrata. Lips. 1799. Folio. Chart. script. Price
17s.

31. MARBODI Liber Lapidum s. de Gemmis; Variet. Lect.
et perpetua Annotat. illustr. J. Beckmann. Gotting. 1799.
Octavo. Price 2s. 6d.

32. SCHWARZ, A. Commentatio de Uteri Degeneratione;
accedunt Tabulæ 11 æneæ. Hanov. 1799. Quarto. Price
3s.

33. SCHEEL, P. Commentatio de Liquoris Amnii asperæ
Arteriæ Foetuum human. Natura et Usu, ejusque in Asphyxiam
neonatorum et medic. forensem Influxu, etc. Hafn. 1799.
Quarto. Price 2s. 6d.

34. Icones et Descriptiones Fungorum minus cognitorum.
By PERSOON of Gottingen. 1800.

35. Synopsis Fungorum. By PERSOON of Gottingen.
1800.

36. Pharmacopœia Borussica; KLAPROTH et FORMEY.
Berlin. 1799. In-4.

37. Cours d'Histoire Naturelle. Par les Citoyens VAN
DER STIGEN et VAN MONS, Professeurs à l'École centrale du
Département de la Dyle. Cahier 26^e.

38. Tableau réunissant les Propriétés physiques et chi-
miques des Corps, disposées methodiquement, destiné à l'Ex-
écution de la Loi sur les Ecoles centrales. Par J. B. BOUIL-
LON LAGRANGE, Professeur de Physique. A Paris, chez
Bernard. 2 vol. in-8.

39. Fossiles de Grignon, avec un Tableau offrant un nou-
vel Ordre naturel des Vers testacés, et un grand Nombre de
Planches, dont quelques-unes coloriées, dessinées, gravées, et
enluminées par l'Auteur. Ouvrage formant une Conchy-
liologie nouvelle, élémentaire et complète. 3 vol. grand in-8,
beau Papier et beaux Caractères; chaque Volume de 450
Pages environ, y compris les Plaches. Par DENIS MONT-
FORT, Aide-géologue au Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de
Paris.

40. Système

40. *Système sexuel des Végétaux, suivant les Classes, les Genres, et les Espèces, avec les Caractères et les Différences.* Par CHARLES LINNÉ'. Première Edition Française, calquée sur celles de Murray et de Persoon, augmentée et enrichée de Notions élémentaires, de Notes diverses, d'une Concordance avec la Méthode de Tournefort, et les Familles naturelles de Jussieu, &c. &c. Par N. JOLYCLERK, Professeur d'Histoire Naturelle à l'Ecole centrale du Département de la Corrize. 8vo. Tomes II. Pages 789. A Paris, chez Montardier. An VII. i. e. 1799.

41. *Histoire naturelle, générale, et particulière.* Par LEClerc DE BUFFON. Nouvelle Edition, accompagnée de Notes, et dans laquelle les Supplémens sont insérés dans le premier Texte, à la Place qui leur convient. L'on y a ajouté l'Histoire naturelle des Quadrupèdes et des Oiseaux découverts depuis la Mort de Buffon ; celles des Reptiles, des Poissons, des Insectes, et des Vers ; enfin de l'Histoire des Plantes dont ce grand Naturaliste n'a pas eu le Temps de s'occuper. Ouvrage formant un Cours complet d'Histoire naturelle, rédigé par C. S. SONNINI. Soixante volumes grand in-8. avec environ 1300 planches.

42. In our Eleventh Number, for Jan. 1800, p. 484, we gave a detailed account of an extraordinary Case of Abstinence nearly fifteen months in duration, recited by Dr. SCHILVER of Osnaburg : an History of the same case has been lately published at Hanover, in 8vo. by Dr. L. J. SCHMIDTMAN, practising physician at Zelle ; who mentions, that the patient had then existed “ *eighteen months without eating or drinking.*”

INTENDED PUBLICATIONS.

44. The Third Volume of Mr. JOHN BELL's anatomical Work (which treats on the Viscera) is preparing for publication.

45. In the press, and speedily will be published, Critical
VOL. III. N° XIII. P and

and Practical Observations on various Articles of the Materia Medica which have been employed in the Treatment of Lues Venerea. By JOHN PEARSON, Senior Surgeon of the Lock Hospital and Asylum, and of the Public Dispensary.

46. Speedily will be published a Translation of that Part of Professor SCARPA's *Disquisitiones Anatomicæ* which relates to the human Ear; entitled, The Anatomy of the Labyrinth of the human Ear, with the Physiology of Hearing. Illustrated with plates. By PETER RAINIER, B. A. of Oriel College, Oxford.

Art. 10. *Current Price of Drugs in the London Market.*

			£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
ALMONDS, bitter	—	—	from	5	0	0	to	5	5	0 cwt.
— sweet	—	—	—	4	15	0	—	5	0	0 —
— Jourdan, new	—	—	—	13	0	0	—	13	10	0 —
— Valentia, best	—	—	—	6	10	0	—	7	0	0 —
Aloes, Barbadoes	—	—	—	14	0	0	—	15	0	0 —
— hepatic	—	—	—	14	0	0	—	0	0	0 —
— Cape	—	—	—	3	10	0	—	3	16	0 —
— Soccot.	—	—	—	14	0	0	—	16	0	0 —
Alum, roach	—	—	—	1	12	0	—	1	14	0 —
— English	—	—	—	22	0	0	—	23	0	0 T.
Ammoniacum, in lump	—	—	—	12	0	0	—	0	0	0 cwt.
— in drops	—	—	—	22	0	0	—	0	0	0 —
Angelica root	—	—	—	4	0	0	—	4	5	0 —
Antimony, crude	—	—	—	2	0	0	—	2	1	0 —
Aqua fortis	—	—	single	0	1	1	dou.	0	1	10 lb.
Arsenic, yellow	—	—		none						
— white	—	—	from	3	0	0	to	3	4	0 cwt.
— red	—	—	—	8	10	0	—	9	10	0 —
Assafoetida	—	—	—	5	0	0	—	15	0	0 —
Balsamum Copaivæ	—	—	—	0	5	0	—	0	5	6 lb.
— Peruvianum	—	—	—	0	7	9	—	0	8	0 —
— Tolutanum	—	—	—	0	2	9	—	0	2	10 —
Barilla, Spanish	—	—	—	2	2	0	—	2	4	0 cwt.
— Teneriffe	—	—	—	1	15	6	—	1	16	0 —
Bark, common Peruvian	—	—	—	0	4	0	—	0	0	0 lb.
— red	—	—	—	0	3	0	—	0	3	6 —
— second	—	—	—	0	6	0	—	0	0	0 —
— quill, or best	—	—	—	0	12	0	—	0	0	0 —
— yellow	—	—	—	0	3	0	—	0	3	3 —
Barley, English pearl	—	—	—	2	8	0	—	0	0	0 cwt.
— foreign ditto	—	—	—	1	6	0	—	1	10	0 —
Benzoë	—	—	—	9	10	0	—	24	0	0 —
Borax, refined, East India	—	—	—	13	0	0	—	14	0	0 —
— unrefined	—	—	—	6	6	0	—	6	10	0 —
— English	—	—	—	0	2	8	—	0	2	9 lb.
Camphire, refined	—	L.	—	0	11	9	—	0	12	0 —
— unrefined	—	—	—	36	10	0	to	37	0	0 cwt.
Cantharides	—	L.	—	0	8	0	—	0	0	0 lb.

Cardamoms,

[1800.]

Current Price of Drugs.

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			£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Cardamoms, best	—	L.	from	0	17	0	to	0	19	0
Carraway seeds, foreign	—	L.	—	1	16	0	—	2	0	0 cwt.
— English	—	—	—	2	6	0	—	2	10	0
Cassia buds	—	—	—	14	10	0	—	15	0	0
— fistula	—	—	—	2	10	0	—	2	15	0
— ligna	—	—	—	14	0	0	—	0	0	0
Castor, American	—	—	—	0	7	6	—	0	8	0 lb.
— oil, best	—	—	—	0	4	3	—	0	4	6 btl.
— Russia	—	—	—	none						
Cerusa acetata	—	—	—	0	2	2	—	0	2	3 lb.
Cinnamon	—	—	—	0	10	0	—	0	0	0
— bonded	—	—	—	0	4	8	—	0	4	9
Cloves	—	—	—	0	6	6	—	0	6	10
— bonded	—	L.	—	0	3	7	—	0	0	0
Cochineal, East India	—	—	—	0	8	0	—	0	10	0
— Spanish, garbled	—	—	—	0	19	0	—	1	2	6
Colocynth, Turkey	—	—	—	0	4	6	—	0	4	9
Colombo root	—	—	—	25	0	0	—	36	0	0 cwt.
Coriander seeds, English	—	—	—	uncertain						
Cream of tartar	—	—	—	5	0	0	—	5	6	0
Cummin seeds	—	—	—	2	12	0	—	2	18	0
Fœnugreek seeds	—	—	—	1	7	0	—	1	8	0
Galbanum	—	—	—	15	0	0	—	17	0	0
Galls, best Aleppo	—	—	—	7	10	0	—	0	0	0
— mixed	—	—	—	6	10	0	—	6	15	0
Gamboge	—	—	—	25	0	0	—	30	0	0
Gentian root	—	—	—	3	5	0	—	0	0	0
Ginger, Jamaica, black	—	—	—	1	10	0	—	2	2	0
— white	—	—	—	3	0	0	—	5	0	0
— Barbadoes	—	—	—	3	10	0	—	3	15	0
— East India	—	—	—	1	15	0	—	2	0	0
Ginseng root	—	L.	—	0	2	6	—	0	2	9 lb.
Guaiacum	—	—	—	uncertain						
Gum Senegalense, ungarb.	—	—	—	14	10	0	—	0	0	0 cwt.
— garb.	—	—	—	15	0	0	—	15	10	0
— Arabic, East India	—	—	—	9	0	0	—	12	0	0
— Turkey, fine	—	—	—	18	0	0	—	28	0	0
Ipecacuanha root	—	—	—	0	12	0	—	0	12	6 lb.
Isinglass, leaf	—	—	—	0	6	0	—	0	6	0
— book	—	—	—	0	5	6	—	0	6	0
— long staple	—	—	—	0	6	6	—	0	6	9
— short staple	—	—	—	0	5	0	—	0	7	0
Jalap	—	H.	—	0	3	6	—	0	3	8
Juniper berries, German	—	—	—	1	8	0	—	0	0	0 cwt.
— Italian	—	—	—	1	1	0	—	1	2	0
Lac, shell	—	—	—	10	0	0	—	12	0	0
— stick	—	—	—	7	0	0	—	9	0	0
Linseed	—	—	—	2	16	0	—	3	6	0 Q.
Liquorice, Italian	—	—	—	7	0	0	—	7	7	0 cwt.
— Spanish	—	—	—	6	6	0	—	6	12	6
Mace, long	—	—	—	1	6	6	—	1	7	0 lb.
— bonded	—	—	—	1	1	0	—	1	2	0
Madder root, best	—	—	—	5	0	0	—	6	0	0 cwt.
Manna in flakes	—	—	—	0	3	0	—	0	4	0 lb.
— sort	—	—	—	0	1	0	—	0	1	1
— Tolpha	—	—	—	0	2	0	—	0	2	2
Mastic	—	—	—	0	4	0	—	0	4	6
Musk, China	—	—	—	1	10	0	—	1	14	0 oz.
Mustard, white	—	—	—	0	10	0	to	0	16	0 lb.
— brown	—	—	—	0	12	0	—	0	17	0

Myrrh

				from	£.	s.	d.	to	£.	s.	d.	
Myrrh	—	—	—		10	0	0		20	0	0	cwt.
Nitre, rough	—	—	—		4	14	6		4	15	6	—
— refined	—	—	—		5	6	0		5	10	0	—
Nutmegs, sound	—	—	—		0	17	0		0	18	0	lb.
— bonded	—	—	—	H.	0	15	0		0	15	3	—
Nux vomica	—	—	—				none					
Oil, Lucca, or salad	—	—	—		10	0	0		11	0	0	jar.
— Spanish	—	—	—		72	0	0		73	0	0	ton.
— linseed, English	—	—	—	L.	51	0	0		0	0	0	—
— palm	—	—	—				none					
Olibanum	—	—	—		5	0	0		6	6	0	cwt.
Opium, Turkey	—	—	—	L.	0	15	0		0	15	6	lb.
— East India	—	—	—		0	8	6		0	0	0	—
Opoponax	—	—	—		42	0	0		44	0	0	cwt.
Pepper, white	—	—	—		0	1	3		0	0	0	lb.
— short, long	—	—	—				uncertain					
Pimento	—	—	—	H.	0	0	8½		0	0	9	lb.
Quicksilver	—	—	—		0	3	8		0	0	0	—
Resin, English black	—	—	—		0	12	0		0	14	0	cwt.
— yellow	—	—	—		0	16	0		0	0	0	—
— foreign black	—	—	—		0	8	0		0	9	0	—
— yellow	—	—	—		0	8	0		0	9	0	—
Rhubarb, East India	—	—	—		0	7	0		0	11	0	lb.
— Russia	—	—	—		0	12	0		0	14	0	—
Saffron, Spanish	—	—	—				none					
— French	—	—	—				none					
Sago	—	—	—				uncertain					
Sal ammoniac	—	—	—		11	0	0		11	15	0	—
Salop	—	—	—		17	10	0		18	0	0	—
Sandarac	—	—	—		4	15	0		5	0	0	—
Sarsaparilla	—	—	—		0	5	0		0	5	6	lb.
Sassafras	—	—	—		2	0	0		2	5	0	cwt.
Scammony, Aleppo	—	—	—		1	4	0		0	0	0	lb.
— Smyrna	—	—	—		0	10	0		0	12	0	—
Senna	—	—	—		0	4	6		0	5	3	—
Snake root	—	—	—		0	3	9		0	4	0	—
Soap, Castile	—	—	—				none					
Spermaceti, refined	—	—	—		0	2	4		0	2	6	lb.
Sulphur, foreign, rough	—	—	—		21	10	0		22	0	0	ton.
Tamarinds, West India	—	—	—		5	0	0		5	15	0	cwt.
Tapioca, Lisbon	—	—	—		0	0	10		0	1	0	lb.
Tragacantha	—	—	—				uncertain					
Turmeric, Bengal	—	—	—		2	15	0		3	0	0	cwt.
— China	—	—	—		4	4	0		4	10	0	—
Turpentine, American	—	—	—		0	16	0		0	17	0	—
— oil of, English	—	—	—		3	15	0		4	0	0	—
Verdigrise, wet	—	—	—		0	2	6		0	0	0	lb.
— dry	—	—	—		0	3	4		0	3	8	—
Vermilion, town-made	—	—	—		0	5	0		0	5	4	—
Vitriol, Roman	—	—	—		3	5	0		4	4	0	cwt.
— oil of	—	—	—		0	0	5		0	0	0	lb.
Wax, Dantzic	—	—	—		10	0	0		0	0	0	cwt.
— Hambro', white	—	—	—		0	2	6		0	2	10	lb.
— bees, English	—	—	—		10	10	0		0	0	0	cwt.
— American	—	—	—		9	5	0		9	15	0	—

* * * The letter H. denotes that the price is getting higher, and L. the contrary.

D.

The coloured Engraving of ELEPHANTIASIS is to face Page 84.

THE

LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW

AND

MAGAZINE.

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ANALYSIS OF BOOKS.

ART. I. *Ausführliche Darstellung des Darwinschen Systems, &c.*
i. e. *Complete View of Darwin's System of the Practice of*
Physic, together with critical Remarks on the same. By
Dr. CHRISTOPHER GIRTANNER. Vol. I. Octavo. 599
pages. ROSENBUSCH, Goettingen. 1799.

THE title of this work does not convey a complete idea of its contents. It is not only a view of Dr. D.'s practical System, but of all his speculations in physiology and pathology, and we may also add, in physics. It contains not only the Zoonomia, but a great number of the opinions and observations of Dr. D. which are scattered in other works and essays. Thus we here meet with his theory of the electric eel; his ideas of light and colours; his hypothesis concerning heat; his opinions concerning winds; and his remarks on the analogy between poetry, painting, and music, &c.

The plan which Dr. Girtanner has adopted for arranging

such a multiplicity of materials in the present volume may justly be considered as his own, although it is in a great degree borrowed from that of the *Zoonomia*. The pains which he has bestowed on his author are very great. He has made himself master of his ideas, and they are therefore almost always detailed with the greatest perspicuity, and with sufficient minuteness.

It will probably be asked, says Dr. G. how far such physical, astronomical, mineralogical, botanical, and aesthetic observations are useful to a system of physiology? We will give his answer, or rather his refusal to answer, in his own words :

“ This question I might with propriety leave unanswered. It is my object to exhibit to the Germans, in its widest extent, the system of a great and original thinker. I could not, I durst not, omit any thing he has thought and said. It is a pleasure to be taken by the hand by such a man as Darwin, who follows his own course, breaking open new roads wherever he goes, although it is allowed that he often leads us to precipices, and to other out of the way places, where we had no expectations of arriving. We do not lament, however, to have been there in such company. I myself, at least, who have spent years in the study of this system, know from experience that knowledge is to be derived even from the errors of Darwin.”

As we are to suppose our readers already sufficiently acquainted with Dr. Darwin's opinions, they will not expect from us an analysis of this work. The critical remarks of Dr. G. on his author are very scanty, and not sufficiently interesting to be deemed worthy of translation.

This volume contains the physiology of animals; the second, we are informed, will contain that of plants.

M.

ART.

ART. II. *A new System of Mineralogy, in the Form of a Catalogue, after the Manner of Baron Born's Systematic Catalogue of the Collection of Fossils of Mademoiselle Eleonore de Raab.* By WILLIAM BABINGTON, M. D. Assistant Physician and Lecturer in Chemistry at Guy's Hospital. Quarto. 279 pages. PHILLIPS, London. 1799. Price 15s.

WE understand that this catalogue describes a collection selected from that of the late Lord Bute, and sold by the author to Sir John St. Aubyn, Bart. in whose possession it is at present, and to whom this volume is dedicated. The following candid avowal exhibits the assistance which the author has derived from various sources :

“ The work itself will shew of what assistance the author has principally availed himself; that in the distribution of his system into classes, orders, genera, and species, as founded on chemical, and the varieties on external, characters, he has nearly adopted the arrangement of *Baron Born* in his Catalogue of the Collection of *Mademoiselle de Raab*; that of *R. de Lisle* has been his guide on the subject of crystallization; that most of the generic descriptions correspond with those of *Widenmann* and *Emmerling*, disciples of the celebrated *Werner*, and that he is chiefly indebted to Mr. Kirwan for what respects the chemical properties and analysis of the different species.”

Although we admire Baron Born's Catalogue as a *chef d'œuvre* of its kind, and are very far from intending an invidious comparison between it and the present work, (on the contrary, we think that Dr. B. has successfully imitated him, and has bestowed great pains and diligence on his subject;) yet we, assuming to ourselves the office of impartial critics, or judges, must avow our opinion that this mode of treating mineralogy is not satisfactory in a systematic view, and as a catalogue it cannot be true. This opinion we do not level against Dr. B.'s work in particular, but against all catalogues

Q 2

logues whatsoever, not even excepting that of Leske's collection. In a regular systematic work, accomplished in the manner in which a subject of such vast importance as mineralogy deserves to be treated, the descriptions ought to be very full, the chemical history detailed more copiously than is commonly done, and the theoretical doctrines ought to be blended with the whole. The description of the genera, species, and varieties, ought to be as general as possible; for it is well known to those who study mineralogy, that the genera, species, and varieties, have not such constant and invariable characters as the genera, species, and varieties of the animal or vegetable world; but in a catalogue, the author is obliged to be satisfied with the specimen before him.

We have said that a catalogue cannot be true, and we need only refer to the first pages of the present work for a vindication and proof of what we assert. A catalogue, under the head of Salts, describes carbonic acid. Has Sir J. St. Aubyn a specimen of this mineral substance? A system of mineralogy ought to mention and describe it; but a catalogue is a representation of a collection, and it cannot, with truth, find a place in it. So also with muriatic acid, fluoric acid, phosphoric acid, and arsenical acid: all these find a proper place in a system; but inasmuch as they are never found alone in the bowels of the earth, and do not, therefore, form specimens in a cabinet, so they ought not to find a place in a catalogue.

As we have been led into these animadversions more from the nature of the work than from the manner in which it is executed, we hope they will not produce an unfavourable impression on our readers.

We do not hesitate to assert, that the present catalogue will be found useful by every lover of mineralogy. The descriptions are clear and concise, and, we dare say, are accurate; but of that we cannot take upon us to judge. The principal external characters of each genus are clearly delineated,

neated, and the chemical composition stated. But we cannot conclude these remarks without expressing our surprise that Dr. B. should have enumerated certain substances as distinct genera, which he knows to be nonentities: he admits the Adamantine earth, and the Sydneean earth, as distinct genera, enumerating them as such, and yet immediately after acknowledges that recent analysis has demonstrated the non-existence of these earths.

H.

ART. III. *A few practical Remarks on the medicinal Effects of Wine and Spirits; with Observations on the Economy of Health: intended principally for the Use of Parents, Guardians, and others entrusted with the Care of Youth.* By WILLIAM SANDFORD, Surgeon to the Worcester Infirmary. Duodecimo. 152 pages. CADELL and DAVIES, London. 1799. Price 2s. 6d.

THIS little work is of a popular nature, and, as the author informs us, designed only as an impartial appeal to the understandings of such as are uninformed in medicine. Considered in this point of view, we do not hesitate to recommend it as containing many useful observations on the abuse of wine and spirits. Much extraneous, although not uninteresting matter, interlarded with scraps of poetry, is introduced in different parts of the treatise. It commences with an inquiry into the constituent parts of liquors, the good effects arising from the stimulating powers of wine in cases which require the use of it, as in typhus, rickets, &c. The author then points out the most evident and dangerous consequences resulting from its abuse. Previous to this, however, he gives a short account of the process of digestion, with a few observations on those substances which interrupt it, particularly on wine and spirits, when taken to excess. A refutation is next undertaken of the opinion that wine is absolutely necessary for infants in good health.

“ It

“ It would be well if the custom of giving wine to healthy children after dinner were banished for the more wholesome, and far pleasanter, practice of treating them with ripe fruit, when the season will admit of it, and with preserved fruits or sweetmeats in the winter. As a test of their superior salubrity, I will further intrude upon my reader's patience whilst I relate the following facts :

“ A late ingenious surgeon, occupied for a great part of his life in experiments equally well conceived, and accurately executed, gave to one of his children a full glass of sherry every day after dinner for a week : the child was then about five years old, and had never been accustomed to wine : to another child, nearly of the same age, and under similar circumstances, he gave a large china orange for the same space of time : at the end of the week he found a very material difference in the pulse, the heat of the body, the urine, and the stools of the two children. In the *first*, the pulse was quickened, the heat increased, the urine high coloured, and the stools destitute of their usual quantity of bile ; whilst the *second* had every appearance that indicated high health. He then reversed the experiment : to the first-mentioned child he gave the orange, and to the other the wine ; the effects followed as before described : a striking and demonstrative proof of the pernicious effects of vinous liquors on the constitutions of children in full health.

“ If then so active a medicine as wine be given in any *quantity* to a child with its appetite good, its evacuations regular, its sleep uninterrupted, and, in every respect, in perfect health, what must naturally be its effects ? generally, they are of two kinds ; first, if the child be predisposed to plethora, or fulness of habit, some of the inflammatory diseases are often produced, or considerably increased (if they have already commenced in a slight degree,) as cough, with affections of the lungs, frequently laying the foundation, and hereby becoming the remote cause, of *pulmonary consumption* :

tion; sudden and violent *inflammation of the bowels* is likewise often occasioned; and sometimes *hydrocephalus*, or *watery head*, two cases of which I have met with in children of five or six years old, evidently owing to this cause: for *hydrocephalus*, though a *consequence* of disease, as well as a disease itself, is now, I believe, supposed to be preceded by inflammation of the membranes of the brain, as other dropsies are produced in consequence of inflammations, previously affecting the various cavities of the body. But if an opposite and very different predisposition exist, which is frequently the case with *weakly* children, then the mischief, perhaps, does not discover itself till more advanced years, when stomach complaints, with all their endless train of nervous affections, as they are commonly called, render life a misery to its possessors, and a constant prey to medicine.

“The pernicious effects of strong wines,” continues the author, “and more particularly of ardent spirit, are first produced on the stomach, and from thence propagated through the whole of the nervous system; hence arises the constant thirst, owing to increased absorption, occasioned by the stimulus of the vinous spirit; hence follow the tremor and mental dejection, in consequence of the languor that succeeds to increased exertion. On the *liver*, wine and spirits seem to exert a peculiar action: the biliary secretions are deranged; the bile necessarily becomes vitiated, its regular course interrupted, and its salutary uses lost to the constitution: the spleen, too, is often affected, and becomes enlarged, probably, from the same cause. Appearances that may every day be met with, in some degree illustrate this, such as the effects produced on the livers of swine fattened by the distillers, who use the spirituous sediments of barrels for this purpose, and also the residuum of the grain. These animals, so fed, and kept at rest (which greatly assists the other means,) would universally die of *diseased livers*, if not slaughtered in due time.”

The following are, according to Mr. Sandford, the most glaring mistaken ideas concerning the use of spirits, which he considers

considers under the names of Gin, Rum, and Brandy, all other spirituous cordials being compounded from one of these liquors. “ The first is a spirit distilled from the ripe berry of the juniper-tree, having been first infused in a due proportion of ardent spirit, or brandy : an inferior kind of gin is prepared by distilling English brandy with a certain quantity of common turpentine. The essential oil of the juniper-berry, as well as a watery infusion of it, possessing a diuretic quality, *gin* has frequently been taken by persons subject to the stone and gravel, as a medicine very likely to *relieve*, if not to *cure* them. It would be foreign to the object of these remarks to enter at large upon the theory of such complaints, in order to prove the mischiefs that are daily committed by persons ignorant of the real effects of this pernicious spirit.

“ Diluting fluids, it must be confessed, if taken in large quantities, will often (mechanically as it were,) by quickly passing through the kidneys, wash away *gravel* when formed ; and assisted by other chemical remedies called *solvents*, will sometimes prevent the formation of gravel altogether. But the case is very different where any *spirit* is taken with this intention ; the supposed means of cure, absolutely promoting, and keeping up the disease ; and I believe an instance has *never* occurred of a patient having been *cured* of *stone*, or even of *gravel*, by drinking *gin and water*.

“ *Rum*, a spirit distilled from the sugar-cane, after due fermentation, contains an essential oil of a very peculiar, and, to many persons, of a very pleasant flavour. As in this spirit more essential oil abounds than in a like quantity of brandy, it has been supposed to be less hurtful ; nay, it has been esteemed demulcent and nutritious, and on this account has been taken by many patients afflicted with pulmonary, or consumptive, complaints, as well as in coughs of different kinds : a well-known remedy in the former cases is ‘ *rum* ‘ and *milk* ;’ in the latter, this spirit mixed with honey, lemon, &c.

“ In the true consumption of the lungs, it is assuredly improper,

proper, through *all* the stages of this *formidable* disease; towards the latter periods of some coughs, when the inflammatory symptoms have subsided, and weakness has been the consequence, it may not be so highly prejudicial (when greatly diluted) as at the commencement of such complaints; but even in these cases, it is a remedy of so dangerous a tendency, sometimes proving an unsuspected introduction to its habitual use, that, considering the number of remedies, superior in their effects, and less dangerous in their consequences, it cannot be necessary to have recourse to *rum*, though esteemed and recommended, by vulgar opinion, as ‘a never-failing cure.’

“The principal materials from which *brandy* (or spirit of wine, as it is called) is obtained, I have before mentioned at the beginning of these remarks: its colouring matter is probably nothing more than burnt sugar, or an infusion of oak shavings; a small proportion of either will impart a brown colour to a large quantity of fluid, and have the advantage, when so diffused, of being almost tasteless and inodorous.

“This spirit is, I apprehend, even by healthy persons, in more frequent request than either gin or rum. It has been often recommended by physicians to persons with weakly stomachs in preference to wine; this having sometimes (by running into the acetous fermentation) proved painful and troublesome, occasioning heartburn, flatulencies, &c.

“The late excellent Dr. Fothergill is said to have declared, a short time before his death, that he greatly repented, and felt infinite concern, at the idea of having either prescribed, or sanctioned, a practice of this kind; having had occasion to observe the very unfortunate habits, in these respects, which had unguardedly stolen on some of his patients.

“Of all the *baneful* compositions prepared with ardent spirit, *shrub* is perhaps the least so, if diluted with a proper quantity of water, because a very large proportion (possibly nearly one half of the liquor) becomes in reality a kind of mu-

cilage, (which is nutritious) by means of the sugar and fruit contained in it.”

The second division of the work still further recommends the moderate use of wine, &c. The principle which the author wishes to inculcate, is, “not to throw blame on wine *indiscriminately*, or to recommend the entire *disuse* of it, but rather to guard against the *misuse* of that which, as a valuable medicine, may be reserved for future and *fit* occasions. I only contend that wine drank *immoderately*, is not a *necessary*, nor a *natural* beverage; yet we all know it to be sometimes as freely taken as if it were *both*.”

The last section into which Mr. Sandford divides his work, comprehends the means to be adopted to remedy the injuries arising from the abuse of wine and spirituous liquors: “the principal art,” he observes, “to effect which, seems to consist in the *very slow*, and almost *imperceptible* diminution of the *stimulating* beverage. This method, even within the small scope of my own personal observation, has frequently been attended with success. Upon this principle, Sydenham is said to have cured a patient to whom he recommended, after the failure of every other kind of advice, to put daily a certain number of pills, made, indeed, of nothing more than box-wood (though the patient was not aware of that,) into the vessel out of which he took his wine; till, by imperceptible degrees, the number of pills, being every day *increased*, occupied a larger space in the vessel than the wine; by which time the patient, having nearly obtained his cure, was easily prevailed upon to confine himself to the quantity of wine allowed by Sydenham.

“The late Dr. Pitcairne, and others, have succeeded nearly in the same way, with patients who could not, by any other means, be prevailed upon to relinquish their destructive habits.

“After having stated the possibility of a recovery, and the mode by which it may be effected in most cases, it is incumbent

cumbent upon me to point out what appears to be the best substitute to be resorted to in the place of such powerful and unnecessary stimuli : and it is no small satisfaction that I feel in reflecting, that what I shall presume to recommend will admit of such practical illustrations as I shall be able to produce in favour of it, in the *examples* of some characters universally allowed to be eminent for their great medical, philosophical, and general knowledge; some of whom have devoted a principal part of their lives to the study of the human body, and of its various functions and diseases. In addition to which, the very great benefits I have myself experienced in changing the usual stimulant beverage of fermented liquors for a more diluent one, leave me no hesitation in pronouncing *pure spring water* to be unquestionably (with some few exceptions) the best liquor to be taken with our meals, though condemned as prejudicial by some, and rejected for no just reason by others."

Next are stated the advantages resulting from its use, the characteristic marks of good wholesome water, the refutation of prevalent and mistaken ideas on the subject, the practice and recommendation of the most eminent men in learning and in physic. This treatise is then finished by an ample explanation of the term *excitability*. C.

ART. IV. *A Continuation of Facts and Observations relative to the Variolæ Vaccinæ, or Cow-pox.* By EDWARD JENNER, M. D. F. R. S. F. L. S. &c. LAW, London. 1800. Quarto. 42 pages. Price 2s. 6d.

DR. Jenner's inquiries and experiments relative to the vaccine disease, contained in two former publications, have been already laid before our readers. (London Medical Review, vol. i. pp. 141, 207.) The present work is replete with a variety of additional information upon the same subject. The

author states that "upwards of six thousand persons have now been inoculated with the virus of cow-pox, and the far greater part of them have since been inoculated with that of small-pox, and exposed to its infection in every rational way that could be devised, *without effect.*" He differs, however, in a point of much importance from several gentlemen of respectability.

About three fifths of the patients inoculated by Dr. Woodville (and many of those attended by other practitioners in London) were affected with eruptions, for the most part so perfectly resembling the small-pox as not to be distinguished from them.

"When I consider," says Dr. Jenner, "that out of the great number of cases of casual inoculation immediately from cows, which have from time to time presented themselves to my observation, and the many similar instances which have been communicated to me by medical gentlemen in this neighbourhood; when I consider too that the matter with which my inoculations were conducted in the years 1797, 1798, and 1799, was taken from different cows, and that in no instance any thing like a variolous pustule appeared, I cannot feel disposed to imagine that eruptions similar to those described by Dr. Woodville have ever been produced by the *pure uncontaminated cow-pock virus.* On the contrary, I do suppose that those which the Doctor speaks of originated in the action of variolous matter, which crept into the constitution with the vaccine. And this, I presume, happened from the inoculation of a great number of the patients with variolous matter (some on the third, others on the fifth day) after the vaccine had been applied; and it should be observed, that the matter thus propagated became the source of future inoculations in the hands of many medical gentlemen who appeared to have been previously unacquainted with the nature of the cow-pox.

"Another circumstance strongly, in my opinion, supporting
ing

ing this supposition, is the following: The cow-pox has been known among our dairies time immemorial. If pustules then, like the variolous, were to follow the communication of it from the cow to the milker, would not such a fact have been known and recorded at our farms? Yet neither our farmers nor the medical people of the neighbourhood have noticed such an occurrence.

“ The change which took place in the general appearance during the progress of the vaccine inoculation at the Small-pox Hospital should likewise be considered.

“ Although at first it took on so much of the variolous character as to produce pustules in three cases out of five, yet in Dr. Woodville's last report, published in June, he says, ‘ since the publication of my Reports of Inoculations for the Cow-pox, upwards of three hundred cases have been under my care; and out of this number only thirty-nine had pustules that suppurated: viz. out of the first hundred, nineteen had pustules; out of the second, thirteen; and out of the last hundred and ten, only seven had pustules. Thus it appears that the disease has become considerably milder; which I am inclined to attribute to a greater caution used in the choice of the matter, with which the infection was communicated; for lately, that which has been employed for this purpose has been taken only from those patients in whom the cow-pox proved very mild and well characterised*.’

“ The inference I am induced to draw from these premises is very different. The decline, and, finally, the total extinction nearly of these pustules, in my opinion, are more fairly attributable to the cow-pox virus, assimilating the variolous, the former probably being the original, the latter the same

* “ In a few weeks after the cow-pox inoculation was introduced at the Small-pox Hospital, I was favoured with some virus from this stock. In the first instance it produced a few pustules which did not mature; but in the subsequent cases none appeared.”

E. J.

disease

disease under a peculiar, and at present an inexplicable modification."

In order to elucidate this point, Dr. Jenner procured some cow-pock virus from a cow in Mr. Clark's farm at Kentish Town, and conveyed it to Dr. Marshall in Gloucestershire, who was extensively engaged in the inoculation of the vaccine disease. The following was the result of Dr. Marshall's trials with this matter. In his first letter to Dr. J. dated April 26, 1799, he mentions, that he had inoculated an hundred and seven persons since the 22d of March; that the disease was peculiarly mild, and did not in any instance prevent the patient from following his ordinary business. "In all the cases under my care, there have only occurred two or three which required any application owing to erysipelatous inflammation on the arm, and they immediately yielded to it. In the remainder the constitutional illness has been slight but sufficiently marked, and considerably less than I ever observed in the same number inoculated with the small-pox. In only one or two of the cases have any other eruptions appeared than those around the spot where the matter was inserted, and those near the infected part. Neither does there appear in the cow-pox to be the least exciting cause to any other disease, which in the small-pox has been frequently observed, the constitution remaining in as full health and vigour after the termination of the disease as before the infection. Another important consideration appears to be the impossibility of the disease being communicated except by the actual contact of the matter of the pustule, and consequently the perfect safety of the remaining part of the family, supposing only one or two should wish to be inoculated at the same time.

"Upon the whole, it appears evident to me that the cow-pox is a pleasanter, shorter, and infinitely more safe disease than the inoculated small-pox, when conducted in the most careful and approved manner; neither is the local affection of the inoculated part, or the constitutional illness, near so violent.

I speak

I speak with confidence on the subject, having had an opportunity of observing its effects upon a variety of constitutions, from three months old to sixty years; and to which I have paid particular attention. In the cases alluded to here you will observe, that the removal from the original source of the matter has made no alteration or change in the nature or appearance of the disease, and that it may be continued, *ad infinitum* (I imagine,) from one person to another, (if care be observed in taking the matter at a proper period,) without any necessity of recurring to the original matter of the cow."

In a subsequent letter, Dr. Marshall goes on to remark, that he had then inoculated four hundred and twenty-three subjects for the vaccine disease; and that no deviation was observed from the cases formerly adduced. "When they were disposed to become troublesome by erysipelatous inflammation, an application of equal parts of vinegar and water always answered the desired intention. I must not omit to inform you that when the disease had duly acted upon the constitution, I have frequently used the vitriolic acid. A portion of a drop applied with the head of a probe or any convenient utensil upon the pustule, suffered to remain about forty seconds, and afterwards washed off with sponge and water, never failed to stop its progress, and expedite the formation of a scab.

"I have already subjected two hundred and eleven of my patients to the action of variolous matter, *but every one resisted it.*

"The result of my experiments (which were made with every requisite caution) has fully convinced me that the *true cow-pox* is a safe and infallible preventive from the small-pox: that in no case which has fallen under my observation has it been in any considerable degree troublesome, much less have I seen any thing like danger; for in no instance were the patients prevented from following their ordinary employments.

"In

“ In Dr. Woodville’s publication on the cow-pox, I notice an extraordinary fact. He says that the generality of his patients had pustules. It certainly appears extremely extraordinary that in all my cases there never was but one pustule, which appeared on a patient’s elbow on the inoculated arm, and matured. It appeared exactly like that on the incised part.

“ The whole of my observations, founded as it appears on an extensive experience, leads me to these obvious conclusions ; that those cases which have been or may be adduced against the preventive powers of the cow-pox, could not have been those of the true kind, since it must appear to be absolutely impossible that I should have succeeded in such a number of cases without a single exception, if such a preventive power did not exist. I cannot entertain a doubt that the inoculated cow-pox must quickly supersede that of small-pox. If the many important advantages which must result from the new practice are duly considered, we may reasonably infer that public benefit, the sure test of the real merit of discoveries, will render it generally extensive.”

In a postscript, this physician observes, that one hundred and twenty-seven of his patients were infected with the matter sent by Dr. Jenner “ from the London cow ;” but there was “ no dissimilarity of symptoms” from the other cases ; “ no pustules” appeared, except in one or two instances upon the inoculated arm ; no inflammation, nor distressing effect, requiring medicine.

“ I have frequently,” says he, “ inoculated one or two in a family, and the remaining part of it some weeks afterwards. The uninfected have slept with the infected during the whole course of the disease without being affected ; so that I am fully convinced that the disease cannot be taken but by actual contact with the matter.

“ A curious fact has lately fallen under my observation, on which I leave you to comment.

“ I visited

“ I visited a patient with the confluent small-pox, and charged a lancet with some of the matter. Two days afterwards I was desired to inoculate a woman and four children with the cow-pox, and I inadvertently took the vaccine matter on the same lancet which was before charged with that of small-pox. In three days I discovered the mistake, and fully expected that my five patients would be infected with small-pox; but I was agreeably surprised to find the disease to be the genuine cow-pox, which proceeded without deviating in any particular from my former cases. I afterwards inoculated these patients with variolous matter, but all of them resisted its action.

“ I omitted mentioning another great advantage that now occurs to me in the inoculated cow-pox; I mean the safety with which pregnant women may have the disease communicated to them. I have inoculated a great number of females in that situation, and never observed their cases to differ in any respect from those of my other patients. Indeed the disease is so mild, that it seems as if it might at all times be communicated with the most perfect safety.”

Other gentlemen, who communicated the result of their experiments to Dr. Jenner, “ all agree in the same point as that given in the above communication, namely, the security of the patient from the effects of the small-pox after the cow-pox.” And although some of his correspondents “ have mentioned the appearance of small-pox-like eruptions at the commencement of their inoculations, in these cases the matter was derived from the original stock at the Small-pox Hospital.”

Dr. J. and others inoculated “ a very considerable number from the matter produced by Dr. Marshall's patients, originating in the London cow, without observing pustules of any kind. Whether the nature of the virus will undergo any change from being farther removed from its original source in passing successively from one person to another, time alone can determine. That which I am now employing,” the

author tells us, "has been in use near eight months, and not the least change is perceptible in its mode of action either locally or constitutionally. There is, therefore, every reason to expect that its effects will remain unaltered, and that we shall not be under the necessity of seeking fresh supplies from the cow.

"Although the susceptibility of the virus of the cow-pox is for the most part lost in those who have had the small-pox, yet in some constitutions it is only partially destroyed, and in others it does not appear to be in the least diminished." The following is a very decisive case, wherein the disease took place most perfectly; it is related by Mr. Fewster, and contradicts some accounts which have gone abroad:

"Three children were inoculated with the vaccine matter. On calling to look at their arms three days after, I was told that John Hodges, one of the three, had been inoculated with the small-pox when a year old, and that he had a full burden, of which his face produced plentiful marks, a circumstance I was not before made acquainted with. On the sixth day the arm of this boy appeared as if inoculated with variolous matter, but the pustule was rather more elevated. On the ninth day he complained of violent pain in his head and back, accompanied with vomiting and much fever. The next day he was very well, and went to work as usual. The punctured part began to spread, and there was the areola around the inoculated part to a considerable extent."

Several cases are adduced, which prove, in a satisfactory manner, that persons exposed for some days to the effluvia of small-pox, may escape infection by being inoculated with cow-pock matter; the vaccine disease, in such cases, having gone through its course, and superseded the variolous contagion.

The subsequent facts are deserving of notice: "Miss R——, a young lady about five years old, was seized on the evening of the eighth day after inoculation with vaccine virus, with such
symptoms

symptoms as commonly denote the accession of violent fever. Her throat was also a little sore, and there were some uneasy sensations about the muscles of the neck. The day following a rash was perceptible on her face and neck, so much resembling the efflorescence of the *scarlatina anginosa*, that I was induced to ask whether Miss R—— had been exposed to the contagion of that disease. An answer in the affirmative, and the rapid spreading of the redness over the skin, at once relieved me from much anxiety respecting the nature of the malady, which went through its course in the ordinary way, but not without symptoms which were alarming, both to myself and Mr. Lyford, who attended with me. There was no apparent deviation in the ordinary progress of the pustule to a state of maturity, from what we see in general; yet there was a total suspension of the *areola* or florid discoloration around it, until the *scarlatina* had retired from the constitution. As soon as the patient was freed from this disease, this appearance advanced in the usual way.

“ The case of Miss H—— R—— is not less interesting than that of her sister above related. She was exposed to the contagion of the *scarlatina* at the same time, and sickened almost at the same hour. The symptoms continued severe about twelve hours when the scarlatine-rash shewed itself faintly upon her face, and partly upon her neck. After remaining two or three hours it suddenly disappeared, and she became perfectly free from every complaint. My surprise at this sudden transition from extreme sickness to health, in great measure ceased when I observed that the inoculated pustule had occasioned, in this case, the common efflorescent appearance around it, and that as it approached the centre it was nearly in an erysipelatous state. But the most remarkable part of this history is, that on the fourth day afterwards, as soon as the efflorescence began to die away upon the arm, and the pustule to dry up, the *scarlatina* again appeared, her throat became sore, the rash spread all over her. She went fairly through the disease, with its common symptoms.

“That these were actually cases of *scarlatina*, was rendered certain by two servants in the family falling ill at the same time with the distemper, who had been exposed to the infection with the young ladies.”

As there are some persons who imagine the security against the small-pox to be only temporary, from being inoculated with the cow-pox, Dr. Jenner argues against this supposition, and brings forward various facts to evince the contrary. He then combats the idea adopted by Dr. Woodville, of the cow-pox being communicable by effluvia only; and shews, from actual experiments, “that it is not infectious, except by contact.” He has never forbidden his cow-pock patients to associate with those who had neither had that disorder nor the small-pox: “and further,” says he, “I have repeatedly among children caused the uninfected to breathe over the inoculated vaccine pustules during their whole progress, yet these experiments were tried without the least effect. However, to submit a matter so important to a still further scrutiny, I desired Mr. H. Jenner to make any further experiments which might strike him as most likely to establish or refute what had been advanced on this subject. He has since informed me, that he inoculated children at the breast, whose mothers had not gone through either the small-pox or the cow-pox; that he had inoculated mothers whose sucking infants had never undergone either of these diseases; that the effluvia from the inoculated pustules, in either case, had been inhaled from day to day during the whole progress of their maturation, and that there was not the least perceptible effect from these exposures. One woman he inoculated about a week previous to her *accouchement*, that her infant might be the more fully and conveniently exposed to the pustule; but, as in the former instances, no infection was given, although the child frequently slept on the arm of its mother with its nostrils and mouth exposed to the pustule in the fullest state of maturity. In a word, is it not impossible for the cow-pox, whose *only*

manifestation appears to consist in the pustules created by contact, to produce itself by effluvia?"

The following particulars merit attention: "The punctured part on a boy's arm (who was inoculated with fresh limpid virus) on the sixth day, instead of shewing a beginning vesicle, which is usual in the cow-pox at that period, was encrusted over with a rugged amber-coloured scab. The scab continued to spread and increase in thickness for some days, when at its edges a vesicated ring appeared, and the disease went through its ordinary course, the boy having had soreness in the axilla, and some slight indisposition. With the fluid matter taken from his arm, five persons were inoculated. In one it took no effect. In another it produced a perfect pustule without any deviation from the common appearance; but in the other three, the progress of the inflammation was exactly similar to the instance which afforded the virus for their inoculation; there was a creeping scab of a loose texture, and subsequently the formation of limpid fluid at its edges. As these people were all employed in laborious exercises, it is possible that these anomalous appearances might owe their origin to the friction of the clothes on the newly-inflamed part of the arm."

In cases where the inflammation of the inoculated arm ran too high, and became distressing to the patients, Dr. J. applied a single drop of the *aqua lithargyri acetati*, or saturnine extract, to the pustule; and covered the efflorescence with a piece of linen dipped in the same, properly diluted. This application, repeated several times a day, proved agreeable and efficacious. "When the scab is prematurely rubbed off, (a circumstance not unfrequent among children and working people,) the application of a little *aqua lithargyri acet.* to the part, immediately coagulates the surface, which supplies its place, and prevents a sore."

The author suggested, in his former treatises, that the human constitution will sometimes retain its susceptibility of
the

the small-pox after having previously felt its influence; and he now observes, that "many facts" have come within his knowledge to verify this point. He, in particular, recites one instance which seems peculiarly apposite; and, as the patient was a medical man, who had inoculated two thousand persons, it cannot be questioned that his judgment was decisive.

Dr. J. concludes his observations, by comparing the effects of the vaccine and variolous infection upon inoculated subjects predisposed to scrophula; and alledges that, in this respect, the new inoculation is greatly to be preferred, as it has not the smallest tendency to produce that destructive complaint.

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(Continued from page 83.)

5. *Observations on the Pemphigus Major of Sauvages.* By Dr. R. Hall, Physician, Jedburgh.

IN a former paper, contained in the third volume of Medical Annals, Dr. Hall entered into a short discussion respecting the pemphigus, and stated the grounds from which he deduced the probable conclusion, that the disease was merely sporadic. Since that period, two cases of pemphigus, said to have occurred in the same family, were published in the eighth volume of the Monthly Review, new series; in which the author is of opinion that the disease is contagious. This naturally gave rise to the inquiry, whether it be propagated by infection, since that is the essential character of all contagious diseases. On this head, Dr. Hall observes, "were it communicable from infection, like other febrile contagions, derived either directly from the human body, or from substances imbued with it, or from any peculiar miasmata whatever, diffused in the atmosphere, the disease would necessarily become more or less prevalent. All contagious diseases

diseases are more or less epidemic: but pemphigus is so far from ever being so, that all the well-attested instances of it are solitary ones. While, however, it is admitted, that, from such a circumscribed sphere of action, abstractly considered, we cannot absolutely infer the non-existence of contagion; yet it is contended, that the universality of this exemption, with other concurring circumstances in the history of the affection, at least warrant a conclusion on the side of great probability, and strongly militate against the supposition of its contagious nature.

“ As, however, a single positive proof well authenticated outweighs a thousand negative ones, it was to me a subject of some regret, that, when the disease was in my own family last year, I had not endeavoured to ascertain whether it might not be communicated, like the cow or small pox, by inoculation. Both facts and analogy suggested that if the present affection, like measles, small-pox, &c. depended on a peculiar specific contagion, on a matter *sui generis*, alone capable of inducing the disease; like them also, it might be propagated either by inoculation or by actual contact with the infectious matter.

“ An opportunity sooner occurred of submitting this opinion to the test of actual experiment than I either wished or expected; by the reappearance of the disease in one of the two patients who had been subjected to this affection, nearly about the same period, in the preceding year.

“ Mrs. H. had for a few weeks previous to the present attack been occasionally subject to slight febrile paroxysms, for which bark, &c. had been prescribed, but were never diligently employed.

“ Towards the evening of the 28th July, she was seized with giddiness and head-ach, a sense of great lassitude and weakness, with other precursory symptoms of fever. On the following morning her skin was preternaturally hot; pulse frequent, weak, and irregular; head-ach rather more violent; respiration

respiration somewhat oppressed; was thirsty, but not costive; her tongue parched, but not foul. She had passed a restless and uneasy night, and said, that she now apprehended the nature of her disease would prove similar to that which she had experienced last year. In the evening a single vesicle appeared on the thigh.

“ 30th, She had been equally restless as on the foregoing night; and to an aggravation of the former symptoms were now superadded, great irritability of the system, and frequent but irregular shiverings. In the course of the day, five more vesicles made their appearance on different parts of the body.

“ August 1, A small one appeared on the exterior part of the meatus auditorius. By the evening of the next day all the febrile symptoms had suffered a considerable abatement; but she continued for a few days affected with much languor and debility, had a slight exacerbation of fever every night, with an evident apyrexia in the morning.

“ Towards the decline of the complaint, an eruption of small pimples came on, especially about the neck and arms, similar to those excited by nettle-burning; but which soon went off without any bad symptom. The disease was mild in comparison with that she had sustained in the preceding year, and shorter in the term of its duration. The vesicles were few in number, and wholly confined to the external surface of the body. Those that did appear were filled, however, in like manner with yellowish serum, and of the same magnitude as on the former occasion. They were painful upon being touched, but the circumjacent skin was not much inflamed. Of two or three that were punctured she complained a good deal, and observed, that her sensations after the operation were similar, as she conceived, to what would have been felt by her upon the application of any corrosive or caustic matter to the same part of the body. Upon the most diligent scrutiny, I could not discover that any person, either in the town or neighbourhood, had been affected with a similar complaint;

plaint; nor was the disease communicated to any one, although both now and in the preceding attack the patient had, at my particular request, continued to allow a person to sleep with her during the whole period of her illness.

“ Both during the progress, and at the height of the disease, some of the fluid with which the vesicles were filled was taken; and with it I inoculated myself and two other persons, in both arms, making three punctures in each arm. In one of the patients, on the day after the insertion of the matter, a single puncture exhibited a very slight degree of inflammation; not, however, more than what frequently occurs from a scratch or puncture made with a clean instrument: but neither in this patient nor in the other two was any constitutional effect, or the least perceptible indisposition produced. The result of these attempts to communicate the disease, by inoculation and contact, although not perhaps sufficiently numerous to prove decisive of the question, is at least extremely unfavourable to the hypothesis of those who assert the contagious nature of pemphigus, and tends strongly to support and confirm the negative conclusion.

“ From the foregoing statement it would appear, that the following inferences may be fairly deduced:

“ 1st, That pemphigus is a disease of which persons are susceptible more than once in the course of their lives.

“ 2dly, That the disease originates where no source of infection can possibly be discovered, and seems generally connected with more or less of an affection of the whole system.

“ 3dly, That patients labouring under it may have constant intercourse with others, and yet never communicate the disease to any of them.

“ 4thly, That the disease is not communicable, like the cow-pox or small-pox, by inoculation.

“ On the whole, when we comprehensively survey the evidence recorded by recent writers on the subject, as well as

that furnished by the present and former cases, we must, I apprehend, be necessarily led to conclude, that the pemphigus major of Sauvages is an affection merely sporadic, and not of a contagious nature.

“ That the symptoms accompanying one or other instances of this affection are those which attend febrile diseases, whether inflammatory or putrid, the cases given by Drs. Dickson and Stewart, and the one recorded by Mr. Christie, sufficiently evince. In practice, therefore, it would appear the most important distinctions are, to ascertain

“ 1st, When the fever is of an inflammatory nature, and accompanied with strong and increased action of the vascular system.

“ 2dly, When the fever has a tendency to the typhoid type; is marked by great debility and symptoms which denote a tendency of the fluids to putrefaction. In the first case, it will be obvious that evacuation and other antiphlogistic remedies suited to the nature of the case will be proper. As on the other hand, in the second, it will be equally necessary to shun all evacuations, and to employ those remedies alone which support the strength, and give tone and vigour to the system.

“ From the whole concourse of symptoms in the present and in the two cases of this affection formerly communicated, we are naturally led to infer, that the disease in a great measure depended on a certain state of debility and a tendency of the fluids to putrefaction.

“ The general indications of cure thence deducible are sufficiently obvious.

“ In the case now under consideration, on the first accession of the complaint, when the skin was hot and dry, a mild antimonial was exhibited in order principally to excite a gentle diaphoresis; but its use was soon discontinued.

“ Afterwards, opiates combined with vitriolic æther were found very useful in diminishing the effects of irritation, and in

in promoting the determination to the surface. The bark and other tonics, particularly the nitrous acid, in a state of proper dilution, were early administered, and proved very effectual in obviating the effects of debility. By these means, and the ulterior employment of other auxiliaries, the health of the patient was speedily re-established."

6. *Speculations concerning the perspirable Fluids of the human Body, with the View of ascertaining how far they are sometimes converted to septic or pestilential Matters, adapted to the Case of the North American Cities, now of late frequently visited by pestilential Distempers.* By Samuel L. Mitchell, Professor of Chemistry in New York, F. R. S. S. A. &c.

The object of these Speculations is, to examine, by such means as we are possessed of, what substances they are which compose the cuticular secretion in the time of health, what alteration it undergoes by accumulation and confinement in certain cases, and how pestilential fluids and fomites may be produced thereby.

The uncleanness of *shirts, drawers, and stockings*, Dr. Mitchell is of opinion, may be deemed matter wiped from the *cuticle*, and derived to the cuticle from the vessels and ducts of the subjacent *true skin*. An examination, then, of the facts relating to clothing grown foul by long wearing next the cuticle, may be considered as virtually an examination of the cuticle itself, and of the excreted matters which stick to it.

"1st, One general property of all these matters, and of clothes tainted by them, is, that *alkaline salts* and *soaps* will seize, neutralize, and extract them; the garments being thereby rendered wholesome and clean. An unquestionable effect of such applications is, to remove the greasy or unctuous matter communicated to them from the cuticle; but this is not all. The *watery*, as well as the *oily* part of the perspirable matter, contains the *bases of acids*. A portion of oxygen combining with this fat material imparts to it more or less of rancidity. Another portion uniting to carbon forms

carbonic acid ; and this, volatilized by heat, is converted to carbonic acid gas. Another portion of the acidifying principle uniting to the phosphorus turns it to phosphoric acid ; while the septon (azote,) if it happen to combine with caloric alone, flies off in the form of azotic air ; or, if it make a junction with oxygen, constitutes with it *septic acid*. Oils being capable of uniting with the stronger acids, especially with the septic, and probably also with the phosphoric and carbonic, there can be little doubt that these acids, or some of them, or some part of some of them, join with the adipose matter into a sort of *acid soap*, on the cuticle and shirt. This acidifying process, whereby carbon, phosphorus, and septon unite to oxygen, takes place, *not before secretion, but after* the perspired matter is deposited on the cuticle, or lodged in the shirt. The formation of acids in this case is not the immediate effect of vital movement at all, but results from chemical attraction going on among the particles of the fluids *after excretion*, as in other inanimate matter ; neither the cuticle nor the fluids which besmear and bedew it having any living energy to control or modify the laws of chemical action. Hence proceeds that *sour smell* from clothes in which sailors and labouring men have sweated profusely ; which, though obvious to the senses, and familiar to the wearers, and to washer-women, remains unknown to hardly any body but philosophers.

“ Thus, a solution of *an alkaline salt* or of a *soap*, detaches all *acids* from the cuticle, and from clothes, as likewise from all oily or other connexions they may have formed ; and the same lixivial and saponaceous mixtures remove all *greasy* substances, by virtue of the stronger attraction they exert toward these, than these possess for the cuticle or the garment worn next to it.

“ On the cleansing of clothes there is one fact worthy of being mentioned : sailors on West India voyages, when destitute of soap, frequently wash their clothes in water with

the *acid of molasses* (commonly molasses) as a substitute for soap. They find this practice answer pretty well. Sugar, as the basis of molasses, is known to decompose septous (nitrous) acid very readily. Is not the purification of mariners' clothes in this manner a circumstance of weight to evince the decomposition of the septic acid they contain by the saccharine ingredients of the molasses?"

Such is the author's detail of the principal constituent parts of that nastiness which accumulates on the skins and on the garments of human beings; and such the theory of the operation of alkalies, &c. in making them clean. From a comparison of the facts relative to *perspiration* with those which respect *urine*, it will readily appear that the two fluids very much resemble each other, as might naturally be supposed from the great connexion there has been long known to exist between the two discharges. What is therefore true of the one is, to most purposes, applicable to the other. "In particular," says Dr. Mitchell, "the sweat as well as the urine contains *septon*, which often combines with oxygen, and forms that noxious compound *septic acid*."

"2d, Another general property of these vitiated or corrupted animal excretions is, to rot the clothing in which they inhere, and cause it wear out the faster. Garments too long worn without being cleansed from time to time, often grow *rotten* and *infectious* as they grow nasty. Alkalies remove the nastiness, and, if applied discreetly in season, prevent the rottenness, and check the infection. Every day's experience demonstrates their efficacy in these processes. The following fact may serve as an exemplification of a very common occurrence.

"A gentleman in the time of war was taken captive, and compelled by the enemy to march on foot a great distance, at a violent rate, during very hot weather. He sweated most profusely. At the end of the march he was confined in prison, and treated with great rigour. Being deprived of changes
of

of raiment, and of the means of keeping himself clean, his shirt, in a short time after his confinement, became rotten, and he fell sick of a fever."

In this case Dr. Mitchell asserts, that there is "no doubt both the cuticle and shirt became impregnated with *septic poison*, generated from the *sweat*; from which both the *constitution* and the clothing were the sufferers.

"3d, A third general effect of these septic productions, as was observed in the preceding paragraph, is, to *injure the constitution*. This they do in two ways: 1. By a direct stimulant operation upon the part of the *true skin* to which they are applied, causing different forms of *tinea*, *herpes*, *psora*, *elephantiasis*, *petechial* and *miliary eruptions*, &c. &c. And, 2. By a direct stimulant operation upon the heart and sanguiferous vessels, after they are conveyed thither through the absorbents arising from the cuticular surface, causing various grades of febrile disturbance, of the intermittent, remittent, and continued forms, and inducing distempered motions, glandular swellings, buboes, &c. in the lymphatic system, as they pass through its branches.

"4th, A fourth general property of these fluids engendered in corruption is, to be volatilized by the heat of summer and autumn in the United States. The noxious quality of the vapours proceeding from putrefying collections of common animal matter is too well known to require mentioning in this place. When that other animal matter which constitutes perspiration and sweat, and accumulates in the cuticle and clothing to a large amount, has undergone the changes to which it is prone, it is much disposed to assume the aerial form. Some portion of these exhaling vapours are often pungent, active, and of a deleterious quality. They are produced, generally speaking, not in the circulating blood, nor during the process of secretion, but after their deposition upon the cuticle and clothes, and aided by *heat* and *moisture* through a process similar to that which converts urine and several other

other excrementitious substances into offensive and noxious airs.

“ Clothing or merchandise of any kind wherein noxious airs or fluids of the septic kind are generated or accumulated is called a *fomes*. In this way *bills of paper-money* passing frequently from man to man, and becoming tainted with every thing that human hands can impart to them, have in the city of New York degenerated to a *fomes*. So the *shoes and stockings* of that unclean person who suffers septic acid so to accumulate about the toes and feet, as to eat away the cuticle to the quick, may become a *fomes*. In like manner, a *seaman's chest of dirty clothes* tainted with all kinds of animal exudations may, during a voyage from Cape François, or any distant port, to New York, turn to a *fomes*, though not a particle of infection was borrowed from the atmosphere of St. Domingo, nor from any person living in it. By a process in no wise different do *feather-beds*, and *beds of all kinds* that have been long used, and thereby become thoroughly impregnated with perspirable and other matter, acquire their unwholesome qualities, and turn to a *fomes*. Just thus are clothes charged with perspirable and other excrementitious matter, discharged from the bodies of prisoners in jails, and other persons living in foul and confined places, converted to venom and pestilence, or to an infectious or contagious *fomes*; and it is not impossible, that a *bale of cotton*, or any similar material, may, by impregnation with animal matter, become a repository of mischief, and a *fomes*.”

7. *History of a Case terminating successfully, in which an inverted Uterus was extirpated.* By Mr. Alexander Hunter, Surgeon, Dumbarton.

This is a very uncommon and interesting case.

A young woman was delivered, about five years after her marriage, of her first child: she had a good time, but a considerable hæmorrhage occurred after the natural expulsion of the placenta, which continued until she fainted, and then abated. The following day she was very faint, and became
uneasy

uneasy from the distension of the bladder; the urine was drawn off: upon examination *per vaginam*, a tumour of the size and nearly the shape of a large pear was felt, adhering to the uterus with great firmness. The apex had projected beyond the os uteri, which was soft, and easily dilated. The hand was introduced into the uterus, and an endeavour made to separate the excrescence, by pushing the finger between it and the womb, but without effect; and the woman turning faint, obliged Mr. Hunter to desist.

On the following day the tumour had descended considerably. Again an attempt was made to separate it, by insinuating the fingers between it and the uterus; but it still failed. All this time, the woman was easy except when her water troubled her; slept well, and had a tolerable appetite.

As it was not probable, that the water could come away without assistance, in the present situation of the tumour, and as the patient was at a considerable distance from the author, he instructed a neighbour of hers how to use the catheter; and determined to wait the further progress of the disease.

“ On the eighth day after delivery, her husband came to me,” says Mr. Hunter, “ in a great hurry; and told me, that the lump was come down, but that the end of it was still fast.

“ I went to her, and found the tumour protruded; and together with it, the whole body of the uterus completely inverted. Pains, similar, and nearly of equal strength, with those in labour, had come on, about half an hour before the protrusion.

“ As I had never seen any case of inversion, it gave me much alarm. With some difficulty, the lump was separated from the fundus uteri, to which it strongly adhered. I endeavoured then to reduce the inversion. But after using every mean that I could think of, and sometimes considerable force, for about two hours, without the smallest alteration, it was thought best to leave off. During the whole trial, the patient:
felt

felt no pain; and although the womb was several times squeezed with considerable force, it appeared insensible.

“ The leaving the uterus in that situation, gave me a great deal of uneasiness. And, being afraid that exposure to cold would produce fatal symptoms, after considerable trouble, it was forced back into the vagina, in its inverted state.

“ Next day strong pains came on; and it was again protruded.

“ The womb was a second time returned into the vagina; and continued in that situation for eight days. During all that time, no pain was experienced, except the slight inconvenience of drawing off the water twice a day.

“ On the morning of the ninth day, the prolapsus again took place, attended with pains as formerly. It was now wished, that it might be allowed to remain in that state, as the water would be thus discharged. And the supporting it with a bandage might be better than using force to place it in an unnatural situation within the vagina. Excepting a slight shooting of pain through the tumour, no other uneasiness was yet felt.

“ When the womb first came down, it was nearly of the size of a small pine-apple, and felt hard. The second time it was smaller, but still harder. Before returning it into the vagina, a trial was always made to reduce it; but after the first time, the fundus was only dented by any force that could be used.

“ The prospect before the patient was now deplorable. The restoring the uterus was absolutely impracticable; and, if allowed to remain in its present situation, it must be very distressing.

“ About a fortnight elapsed in this way, when a new set of symptoms took place. A discharge of a thin watery nature began to flow from the whole surface of the womb, which gradually increased in quantity, and became so extremely fetid, that it was very disagreeable to enter the room. And, though great at-

tention was bestowed, the bed was always wet. Her strength was soon much reduced. And, notwithstanding a liberal use of bark, elix. vitriol. and port-wine, severe hectic attacks came on.

“ In this state of the business no plan could be figured for saving the patient without amputating the uterus,” which was at length determined on.

“ I began the operation,” continues the author, “ by fixing a strong ligature on the neck of the tumour, close to the os externum. But being fearful of spasmodic affections from this compression, I waited six hours without proceeding farther. During all that time, however, no complaint was made, no pain was felt.

“ With a scalpel the whole uterus was then cut off, close to the ligature. Still neither symptoms of pain, nor even uneasiness, were perceived. And, I believe, the operation was over before the patient knew it had been begun. She was then laid to rest, and an opiate administered.

“ During the night, she slept well; and, next morning, was very much refreshed. The hectic symptoms went off; her appetite returned; and in fourteen days she was able to get out of bed. At the end of a month she was perfectly recovered. Since that time she has enjoyed a very good state of health.”

8. *A singular Variety of Chorea Sancti Vit. considerably relieved by the Use of the Argentum Nitratum.* By Dr. Thomas Hall, Physician, East Retford, Nottinghamshire.

This is a minute relation, and a well-written case. The subject, a young woman, experienced the worst usage from a cruel husband, who, in the over-bountiful distribution of his blows, by the stroke of a poker, made a considerable depression in the back part of the cranium, evident to the eye as well as the touch. Nervous medicines were prescribed with considerable effect. The disease returning after a few months, Dr. Hall ordered pills composed of *argentum nitratum*, with crumbs of bread; beginning with one sixth of a grain, and gradually

gradually increasing it to two grains in the course of the day. She had had no return when the author heard from her last;—about two months from their first exhibition.

9. *History of a Case of Tetanus cured by the liberal Use of Wine.*

By Dr. David Hosack, Physician, New York.

We shall relate the whole of this case in the words of the author, as it appears to us to be a very important one in favour of the remedy.

“ On Tuesday, March 13, 1798, about one o'clock P. M. I was called to visit a mulatto servant-woman, of John Harrington, Esq. of this city. I was informed, that, about an hour before, while employed in washing clothes, she had pricked herself with a pin in the wrist of her right arm. The part in which the pin entered, was upon the inside of the wrist, immediately over the connexion of the radius with the carpus.

“ The pin was instantly removed; and, finding no inconvenience from the accident, she returned to her employment.

“ In a short time she felt a great degree of soreness in the part which had been injured; with pain, shooting occasionally to the arm, shoulder, and neck.

“ These symptoms, in a few minutes, were succeeded by stiffness about the throat, difficulty of swallowing, and some interruption of her speech; and at length, a locked state of the jaws, attended with a spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the back part of the neck, and occasional subsultus tendinum, with some coldness of her extremities. In this situation I found her.

“ She was naturally of a delicate and irritable habit of body; and had been much subject to hysterical complaints, and fits of fainting, which were sometimes induced by the most trifling causes. Her irritability of habit was also at this time probably increased, having but three months before borne a child, which she was then suckling.

“ Although I have been long since convinced of the insufficiency

ficiency of opium in this disease, in the hurry of the moment, I gave her about sixty drops of laudanum, in a small quantity of wine. Her jaws being closely locked, it was with great difficulty administered.

“ In a few minutes after swallowing the laudanum, she sickened at stomach, and vomited violently; complaining, at the same time, of great pain and distress at the pit of her stomach. The anodyne draught was entirely rejected; but upon a moment's reflection, I did not regret this circumstance, as the disease assumed a very decided character, and I had made up my mind to rely upon the effects of wine alone.

“ Accordingly, about two o'clock I directed a large wine-glass full of Madeira wine (the glass containing about two ounces,) to be given punctually every hour; and a cup of sago and panada, with wine, to be given from time to time, as her nourishment.

“ At this time, another physician, who had also been called upon at the time of the accident, arrived.

“ I related to him what had been done, and the mode of treatment which I directed for the patient.

“ This gentleman having frequently witnessed the failure of the ordinary mode of treatment, at once, with great candour, acceded to the plan proposed; and in addition to the use of wine, proposed the application of caustic to the part which had been wounded.

“ Accordingly, the wound was freely pencilled with the lunar caustic, and afterwards covered with a poultice of bread and milk, with the view to obtain suppuration as soon as possible.

“ The wine was administered with great fidelity, by the mother of the patient until about five o'clock the next morning. She had some slight convulsions in the course of the afternoon, but they were more of an hysterical sort, induced by her great anxiety of mind, than to be ascribed to the disease itself. Generally speaking, there had been a very manifest abatement in

all

all her symptoms ; and she passed a more comfortable night than could have been expected.

“ At five o'clock the next morning, her mistress, alarmed at the quantity of wine she had taken, desisted from its further use.

“ From this time, appearances became more unfavourable ; and at eight o'clock, her jaws, which had been relaxed during the plentiful use of wine, again became stiff, and closed.

“ We saw her at nine, and immediately gave her about half a pint of wine ; and ordered it to be administered as before.

“ At one, her symptoms were greatly changed. We found her sitting up in bed, eating small portions of roasted oysters, which she had called for. At this time her jaws were almost in the natural state. She had taken her wine punctually as directed ; and had experienced no inconvenience from it whatever, although in health she had not been accustomed to its use. Her pulses were still small and feeble, without any excitement from the use of wine. The heat of body remained at its natural standard, not at all increased. The pain in her hand was abated, but without any appearances of suppuration. Finding this mode of treatment to agree so well with her, we directed it to be continued.

“ We saw her again in the evening. Her symptoms continued favourable, without the smallest febrile action from the use of wine. Having had no discharge from her bowels since her illness, an injection was administered ; which remedy was afterwards employed from time to time in the course of her disease, whenever the state of her bowels required it.

“ Thursday morning, nine o'clock, her complaints appeared to be in a great measure subdued ; inasmuch, that we did not think it necessary to visit her again, until late in the evening, and directed the wine to be given at longer intervals, and the quantity to be lessened.

“ She remained in a very comfortable condition, until the afternoon. But the pain in her hand returned with violence ; extending to her arm and neck, as before. Her jaws were again closed. The rigidity of the muscles at the back of her neck returned. Her mind became greatly agitated. She again complained of distress at the pit of her stomach. She fainted, and had several slight convulsions.

“ Being called at that time, I gave her, with some difficulty, about half a pint of wine ; and directed a warm poultice to be immediately boiled. When prepared, I poured upon the surface of it about half an ounce of laudanum, and applied it to the wound. Her symptoms were in a short time allayed. I left her, directing the wine to be continued as before, a large wine-glass full, every hour.

“ We saw her again at nine in the evening ; she remained tranquil. Her jaws were less firmly closed ; but the pain in her hand was not altogether removed. Although she had taken the wine punctually as directed, it had not produced the least apparent excitement. Having had no discharge from her bowels the last twenty-four hours, an injection was administered. The anodyne poultice was removed ; and, in addition to this application, we directed her arm to be bathed with laudanum occasionally through the night.

“ Friday morning, we found she had passed a more comfortable night than the last ; had taken her wine every hour. Her jaws were perfectly relaxed. The pain in her hand had greatly abated : and she was enabled to extend her fingers at pleasure, which she could not do before. Her pulses and skin were natural ; her appetite unimpaired ; her mind composed, without any inconvenience from the wine. We directed her remedies to be all continued as before, fearing any alteration might subject her to a return of her complaints.

“ In the evening, we observed the wine had exhilarated her spirits. She became very talkative. Her pulses became full, and free from tension. Her skin was somewhat heated, and

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all complaints removed, except the wound at the wrist, which exhibited a healthy appearance, and was entirely free from pain, but without any sign of suppuration.

“ We directed the wine to be administered through the night, but in smaller quantities and at longer intervals, unless her complaints should return, and demand a continuance of it as before.

“ Saturday morning, we were informed she had slept the greater part of the night; and had taken but a small quantity of wine. Her symptoms being in all respects favourable, the wine was discontinued, except a small quantity mixed with her nourishment. A dressing of simple ointment was applied to the wound. From that time she remained free from any return of her complaints, and has since been in perfect health.

“ Upon calculating the quantity of wine she had taken, it amounted to three gallons.” A.

(*To be concluded next month.*)

ART. VI. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London for the Year 1799. Part II. Quarto. 348 pages. ELMSLY, London. Price 15s.*

THIS publication contains ten articles, among which we find but a small proportion that bears any relation to medicine or surgery. The first paper is entitled, *An Account of the Dissection of an hermaphrodite Dog. To which are prefixed, some Observations on Hermaphrodites in general.* By Everard Home, Esq. F.R.S.

In the present paper Mr. Home endeavours to explain the different kinds of monstrous production, which have been mistaken for a complete mixture of male and female organs. He first examines into such mal-conformations of the two sexes as led to the belief of the persons being hermaphrodites. He then inquires into the mal-conformation of such males as, from

from a deficiency in their organs, have not the character and general properties of the male, and may therefore be called neuters. After which he considers those having a real mixture of the organs of both sexes, although not sufficiently complete to constitute double organs.

That mal-conformation, the author observes, which has been more than any other mistaken for a mixture of both sexes, is such as Baron Haller and Mr. Cheselden have described, consisting merely of a distorted or imperfect state of the male organs. In some of these cases, considerable assistance may be derived from the hands of a judicious surgeon; although the greater number of them are beyond the reach of art.

It may be reasonably supposed that one great imperfection in the structure of the penis is necessarily attended with others in the more essential organs of generation; Mr. Home therefore gives an instance to the contrary. “ In a case of this kind, in which the canal was continued to the external orifice at the glans penis, the deficiency of the urethra behind the scrotum was so great, that every attempt to close the aperture necessarily left in perinæo proved ineffectual; and, under these circumstances, the person married. When he had connexion, the emission was complete, which proved that the testicles were perfect; but the semen always passed out at the perinæum.

“ The late Mr. Hunter was consulted, to remedy, if possible, this inconvenience, and enable the person to beget children. After the failure of several modes of treatment which were adopted, Mr. Hunter suggested the following experiment. He advised that the husband should be prepared with a syringe fitted for the purpose, previously warmed; and that, immediately after the emission had taken place, it should be taken up by the syringe, and injected into the vagina, while the female organs were still under the influence of the coitus, and in the proper state for receiving the semen.

“ This experiment was actually made, and the wife proved
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with child. Upon a subject of this kind it is proper to speak with caution; but, from all the attending circumstances, no doubt was entertained by Mr. Hunter, or the husband, that the impregnation was entirely the effect of the experiment.

“ Spallanzani’s experiments on this subject, upon animals, were made several years after this proposal of Mr. Hunter’s had been attended with success.

“ In the female, there are two malformations of the organs of generation, which give an appearance to the external parts, tending to mislead the judgment respecting the sex. One is, an enlargement of the clitoris; which is stated by authors to grow to an immoderate size in warm climates, and to resemble a penis. In cold climates, instances of this kind do not occur; and, even in hot countries, they are now rarely met with to such an extent. The accounts that have been given, we must suppose, are much exaggerated; for it is scarcely to be believed, that any enlargement which the clitoris is liable to, can give it a sufficient likeness to a penis, to be productive of any mistake.

“ The most remarkable instance of this kind, that has come to my knowledge, was a negress, who was purchased by General Melville, in the island of Dominica in the West Indies, about the year 1774. She was of the Mandingo nation, twenty-four years of age; her breasts were very flat; she had a rough voice, and masculine countenance. The clitoris was two inches long, and in thickness resembled a common-sized thumb; when viewed at some distance, the end appeared round, and of a red colour, but, upon a closer examination, was found to be more pointed than that of a penis, not flat below, and having neither prepuce nor perforation; when handled, it became half erected, and was, in that state, fully three inches long, and much larger than before: when she voided her urine, she was obliged to lift it up, as it completely covered the orifice of the urethra. The other parts of the female organs were found to be in a natural state.

“ Dr. Clark, who has favoured me with this account, from his own examination, mentions, that among the negro women of the Mandingo and Ibbo nations, a large clitoris is very common; and, in several instances which came under his observation, in the course of his practice in midwifery, in the island of Dominica, the clitoris was an inch long, and thick in proportion; but attended with no other preternatural appearance.

“ The case above mentioned, while it proves that the clitoris is sometimes of a very extraordinary size, also shews, that, when so enlarged, it is unconnected with any mixture of the male organs.

“ The other malformation is a protrusion of the internal parts, which may be considered a prolapsus uteri, and therefore more a disease than an original malformation; it is probable, however, that if the parts had been perfectly formed, and acquired their due size, this change of their situation could not happen. The womb, thus displaced, has put on an appearance resembling a penis; and has been actually mistaken for one, even by medical men of character, who examined the parts.

“ The following case of this kind came under my own observation:

“ A French woman had a prolapsus uteri at an early age, which increased as she grew up; the cervix uteri was uncommonly narrow, and, at the time I saw her (when she was about twenty-five years old,) projected several inches beyond the external opening of the vagina; the surface of the internal parts, from constant exposure, had lost its natural appearance, and resembled the external skin of the penis; the orifice of the os tincae was mistaken for the orifice of the urethra. This woman was shewn as a curiosity in London; and, in the course of a few weeks, made four hundred pounds. I was induced by curiosity to visit her, and, on the first inspection, discovered the deception; which, although very complete to
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a common observer, must have been readily detected by any person intimately acquainted with anatomy. To render herself still more an object of curiosity, she pretended to have the powers of a male. As soon as the deception was found out, she was obliged to go away.

“The history of an hermaphrodite is published in the sixteenth volume of the *Philosophical Transactions*, which proves to be exactly similar to this, as is sufficiently ascertained by the menses flowing regularly through the orifice of the supposed penis. The French physicians were, however, so perfectly convinced of her manhood, that they made her change her dress, and learn a trade. To this she readily submitted; and the account says, she could perform very well the functions of a man, but not those of the other sex. This woman also was French.”

A variety of other curious matter is contained in this paper, which will be highly interesting to the physiologist; but the subject does not admit of being given in a compressed form, so as to gratify our readers. The hermaphrodite dog is thus described by the author:

“A favourite dog of Lord Bessborough’s, which had lived in the family for many years, was observed to have no teats, and never to have been in heat, although, to appearance, a perfectly formed bitch in all other respects: those circumstances being made known to Sir Joseph Banks, he requested, that, when the animal died, it might be sent to him. This happened last summer; and I had an opportunity of examining the organs of generation, which exhibited the following appearances:

“There was not the smallest appearance of teats on the skin of the belly; so that, in this particular, it differed both from the male and female; nor was there the least trace of any thing like the gland of the breast, under the skin. The clitoris was very large, being three quarters of an inch long, and half an inch broad; the orifice of the meatus urinarius was

unusually large, as if it was intended for a common passage to the bladder and vagina; so that the external parts were only the clitoris, meatus urinarius, and rectum. Internally, in the situation of the ovaria, were two imperfectly formed small testicles, distinguished to be such by the convolutions of the spermatic artery; from these passed down an impervious chord, or vas deferens, not thicker than a thread, to the posterior part of the bladder, where they united into one substance, which was nearly two inches long, and terminated behind the meatus urinarius. The other parts of the animal were naturally formed. When the testicles were cut into, they appeared to have no regular glandular structure.

“ In this animal, the clitoris was the only part of the female organs that was completely formed. What rendered the parts a decided mixture of male and female organs was, the testes being in the place appropriated for the ovaria, and the ligamentous substance, to which the vasa deferentia were connected, somewhat resembling an impervious vagina. The clitoris, in this instance, could not be considered as an imperfect penis, since the bone, the distinguishing mark of the dog’s penis, was wanting.”—A drawing is annexed to this account, which conveys a distinct idea of the mal-conformation.

An Inquiry concerning the Weight ascribed to Heat. By Benjamin Count Rumford, F.R.S. M.R.I.A. &c.

This investigation, conducted with the greatest possible accuracy and precaution, afforded the following results: “ that if heat be in fact a *substance*, or matter, a fluid *sui generis*, as has been supposed, which, passing from one body to another, and being accumulated, is the immediate cause of the phenomena we observe in heated bodies, (of which, however, I cannot help entertaining doubts,) it must be something so infinitely rare, even in its most condensed state, as to baffle all our attempts to discover its gravity. And, if the opinion which has been adopted by many of our ablest philosophers, that heat is nothing more than an intestine vibratory motion of

of the constituent parts of heated bodies, should be well founded, it is clear that the weights of bodies can in no wise be affected by such motion.

“ It is, no doubt, upon the supposition that heat is a substance distinct from the heated body, and which is accumulated in it, that all the experiments which have been undertaken, with a view to determine the weight which bodies have been supposed to gain, or to lose, upon being heated or cooled, have been made; and, upon this supposition (but without, however, adopting it entirely, as I do not conceive it to be sufficiently proved,) all my researches have been directed.

“ The capacity of water to receive and retain heat, or what has been called its specific quantity of latent heat, has been found to be to that of gold as 1000 to 50, or as 20 to 1; consequently, the heat which any given quantity of water loses upon being frozen, were it to be communicated to an equal weight of gold, at the temperature of freezing, the gold, instead of being heated 162 degrees, would be heated $140 \times 20 = 2800$ degrees, or, would be raised to a *bright red heat*.

“ It appears therefore to be clearly proved, by my experiments, that a quantity of heat equal to that which 4214 grains (or about $9\frac{3}{4}$ oz.) of gold would require to heat it from the temperature of freezing water to be *red hot*, has no sensible effect upon a balance capable of indicating so small a variation of weight as that of $\frac{1}{1000000}$ part of the body in question; and, if the weight of gold is neither augmented nor lessened by *one millionth part*, upon being heated from the point of *freezing water* to that of a *bright red heat*, I think we may very safely conclude, that ALL ATTEMPTS TO DISCOVER ANY EFFECT OF HEAT UPON THE APPARENT WEIGHTS OF BODIES, WILL BE FRUITLESS.”

Several other papers in this volume of Transactions will afford entertainment and instruction to the naturalist, especially

An Account of some Experiments on the Fecundation of
Vegetables.

Vegetables. In a Letter from Thomas Andrew Knight, Esq. to the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, K. B. P. R. S.

Observations on the different Species of Asiatic Elephants, and their Mode of Dentition. By John Corse, Esq. Communicated by the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. K. B.

Some Observations on the Structure of the Teeth of graminivorous Quadrupeds; particularly those of the Elephant and *Sus Æthiopicus*. By Everard Home, Esq. F. R. S.

Experiments to determine the Quantity of tanning Principle and gallic Acid contained in the Bark of various Trees. By George Biggin, Esq. Communicated by the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. K. B. P. R. S.

On different Sorts of Lime used in Agriculture. By Smithson Tennant, Esq. F. R. S.

Experiments and Observations on Shell and Bone. By Charles Hatchett, Esq. F. R. S. V.

ART. VII. *An Essay on the Analysis of mineral Waters.* By RICHARD KIRWAN, Esq. F. R. S. &c. Octavo. 274 pages. BREMNER, London. 1799. Price 7s.

AS it is entirely incompatible with our original design to exhibit a complete abstract of such a work as this, we must rest satisfied with pointing out, in a few words, its utility, its plan, and the manner in which it is executed.

Mineral waters, strictly so called, are such as are distinguished from rain, spring, lake, or river water, by a peculiar taste, smell, or some other remarkable physical property. These, it is needless to remark, have attracted the attention not only of medical men and naturalists of all ages, but even of geographers, historians, and travellers.

In a medical view, it is of great importance to be well acquainted with their ingredients, since many of them are noxious to health, and fully as many medicinal and salutary.

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We are enabled by chemical analysis to distinguish the deleterious waters from those which are salubrious; and by discovering the contents of those which are medicinal, we can imitate them, and thus exhibit them to such people as live at a great distance from their spring or source. Independently of all this, the history of such waters throws at times much light on geology: and in this analysis, therefore, the mineralogist must take much interest.

The means of examining these fluids have been already pointed out in a scientific manner by Mr. Bergman: but, as Mr. Kirwan remarks, when it is recollected that his treatise was published twenty years ago, that natural knowledge is susceptible of unlimited improvement, and that chemical knowledge hath within that period been considerably advancing, and that some substances have been found to exist in waters which were not suspected to be present in them, we see the utility of improving this part of chemical science.

Mr. K. enters with much perspicuity, and at the same time with great minuteness, into the detail of the several parts of his essay. First, he makes us acquainted with the various substances which have hitherto been found in mineral waters: these are, aerial fluids, acids, alkalies, and earths, neutral salts, sulphats, nitrats, muriats, borax, sulphurets and soaps, bitumen and extractive matter, and what he calls associated salts. He then treats of the various tests which the chemist employs in order to detect the foregoing substances; such as the mineral acids, the various earths, hepars, &c. Next, he speaks of the old method of analyzing mineral waters; after which he proposes his new method. The whole is followed by tables of a most useful nature, exhibiting, 1st, The quantities of real acid in mineral acids: 2dly, The quantities of acid absorbed by different bases: 3dly, The quantity of each basis absorbed by each acid: 4thly, The proportion of ingredients in neutral salts: and, lastly, The length in feet of a column of common air, at different barometrical heights, and different temperatures.

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ART. VIII. *Mr. BLAIR's Essays on the Venereal Disease.*
Part II.

(Concluded from p. 66.)

IN the fourth chapter of this work an additional communication is given from Mr. Macartney; with two letters from Mr. W. Wadd; and one from Mr. Wickham, surgeon to the Winchester Hospital. They all correspond in the general conclusion, that although the new remedies may improve the health, and suspend the symptoms of syphilis, they are not to be confided in for a permanent cure.

Mr. Blair has next introduced an abridgment of the cases and observations contained in M. Alyon's work, on the medicinal properties of oxygen. M. Alyon is very sanguine in his expectations of their efficacy. "I aim," says he, "to banish mercury from the cure of syphilitic diseases." But this is an aim too high even for a modern revolutionist to succeed in. Mr. Blair very properly observes, "that what he calls *des faits irrecusables, des experiences decisives*, are often frivolous and unsatisfactory."

"After various experiments, M. Alyon was enabled to form an ointment impregnated with the greatest possible quantity of oxygen, which, he says, produced the same effects as mercury. The preparation of this 'OXYGENATED LARD' is as follows:

"Take two parts of pure nitric acid (32°) and sixteen parts of recent hog's lard; melt the lard in a glazed vessel, then add the acid, and, when the composition has boiled, remove it from the fire to cool. This operation entirely decomposes the acid, the oxygen combining with the lard, and the azot escaping. Two ounces of fat, melted with two drachms of the acid, increased one drachm in weight, and gave out its azotic gas in a proper apparatus. The ointment, well prepared, neither resembles the unguentum citrinum without mercury, nor rancid lard; as may be easily proved by analysis.

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It has no taste; is dissoluble in water, neither yielding sebâcic or nitric acid by washing; it is of a yellowish white colour, its consistence is between that of suet and virgin wax, it melts without alteration, and suprisingly facilitates the oxydation of metals; mercury triturated with it, only a few minutes, forms the Neapolitan ointment. If the strength of the acid employed be not known; if we add too much of it, the excess will remain in the lard unconcreted, and its use will irritate the skin; if the acid be feeble, the proportion of the oxygen will be deficient, and the remedy less active. The medicinal properties of this ointment will depend on the purity of the acid, the quantity of the lard, and the nicety of their manipulation. M. Alyon prepares two kinds: a weaker ointment for the face, in pimples or tetters; and a stronger, for herpetic or venereal ulcerations."

We select the following cases for the perusal of our readers.

"*Case 4.*—A young man had so bad a phymosis as to threaten mortification of the prepuce. M. Alyon ordered the part to be fomented with warm water, from day to day, till the inflammation subsided, and he could discern the state of the glans. On the corona glandis, four chancres were observable, two of which were very deep; the internal surface of the prepuce was also beset with a dozen chancres. They were immediately touched with a solution of suroxygenated muriate of potash. Next day they were much amended, and their white margin had disappeared. By persisting in the use of this application, seven or eight of the sores were healed in five days. Those that remained were then covered with fine linen, spread with oxygenated ointment, which had entirely cured them on the fifteenth day. During all the above treatment, this patient took a pint of the nitric acid drink daily; and it was continued for a fortnight afterwards, to prevent ill consequences from the absorption of the syphilitic virus. He enjoyed perfect health seven months subsequent to the period of his cure.

“ *Case 7.*—Citizen C——, who had been seven years troubled with a pustulous itch all over his body, that had been treated in vain with mercurial friction and Wanvetin's remedy, besides other means, applied to M. Alyon in the beginning of the month Messidor, fifth year, (June 1797.) He was supposed by this gentleman to have a syphilitic taint mixed with the scabs; on which account he ordered a drachm of nitric acid diluted, to be taken daily, the warm bath to be used every morning, and friction with an ounce of the oxygenated ointment every night. The violent itching which used to disturb the patient's rest became much easier in three days. On the 11th day he was purged, and intermitted the use of his other remedies: on the 12th, he resumed the acid, the bathing, and the friction: on the 15th, he discovered three small chancres on the glans, which were touched every morning with the solution of suroxygenated muriate of potash, and dressed with the oxygenated pomatum. The patient was again purged on the 21st day; and on the 25th his chancres were healed. The itch was now almost extinguished. On the 28th day, there appeared two boils on his abdomen. The patient was purged once more on the 31st day, and then discharged well. Six months and a half afterwards, he still remained in health.

“ *Case 9.*—A woman was delivered of a child infected with the venereal virus, which died a few days after. In six weeks she had a lead-coloured complexion; she could not sleep, and walked with difficulty; her labia pudendi were also beset with chancres, her appetite failed, she had continual headaches, and an abundant greenish discharge. The diluted nitric drink was given her frequently, and the parts affected were washed with warm water. On the 18th day, she found her headach relieved, her appetite recovered, her sleep re-established, her strength recruited, and her complexion restored to its natural state. Two chancres only remained. The drink was continued till the 30th day, when the cure

was complete; and the patient continued well five months after.

“ *Case 10.*—Citizen D—— had a chancre at the basis of the glans, four lines in diameter. He was put on the use of the nitric lemonade, and the chancre was dressed daily with the oxygenated ointment, besides being touched with the solution of oxygenated muriate of potash. The ulcer became cicatrized in thirteen days. The acid drink was employed twenty-five days; and four months and a half afterwards the patient remained well.

“ *Case 14.*—Citizen F—— applied to M. Alyon with a large suppurating bubo in the left groin. The oxygenated pomatum was employed externally, and the nitric acid internally. On the 8th day, the bubo was extremely painful; an emollient poultice was therefore advised: five days after, the part ruptured. The cataplasm was continued until the tumour subsided, and then the oxygenated pomatum was renewed, which healed the sore in eight days. M. Alyon exhibited a cathartic on the 20th day, and continued the acid drink till the 30th. The health and appetite of the patient were recruited in a surprising manner. After four months he had experienced no relapse.

“ *Case 71.*—A young man, who had an extensive chancre, having employed several means to no good purpose, applied to M. Boutin. After employing a bath twice, he had recourse to the acid drink, and rubbed in the oxygenated ointment. The chancre began to amend in eight days; it was three quarters cicatrized in ten more; and was perfectly healed on the 24th. Mr. B. makes a whimsical remark here: The original large chancre, about eighteen days after using the acid, was surrounded with several little ones; ‘*which seems to prove,*’ says he, ‘*that this remedy has the property of transferring the virus to the external parts.*’ ”

Other practitioners have contributed to the number of cases related in this volume; and Mr. Blair has also extracted the

substance of what has been recited in several works. The following observations from Dr. Trotter seem to be of importance, because they differ materially from those he had formerly been induced to publish.

“ The poor woman in Portsmouth who had taken the diluted acid about ten days with considerable benefit, and of whom he ‘ prognosticated a favourable issue and a speedy ‘ cure,’ (*Dr. Beddoes's New Reports*, p. 24,) in another week became rather worse than before; the medicine also disagreed with her, and Dr. T. was obliged to give it up entirely. ‘ Some physicians and surgeons,’ says he, ‘ continue to support the character of this medicine: for my own part, what ‘ success I have seen attend it, I am apt to think, *was very ‘ much owing to the previous exhibition of mercury.*—I do not ‘ find *now*, among my medical acquaintance, many who are ‘ prepossessed in favour of the nitrous acid; what have been ‘ thought cures, have *generally broke out afresh*, and of necessity the old remedy was resorted to! Some of Mr. Ham- ‘ mick's patients, whose cases were published by Dr. Bed- ‘ does, have again suffered a return of the disease; two or ‘ three of this kind have been reported to me in the fleet; and ‘ they were such, where a fresh infection could not be suspected. They all yielded to mercury in the usual forms of ‘ prescription !!! ”

Some extracts are made from a publication by Dr. Zeller of Vienna, on the antivenereal Effects of muriatic Acid, printed in the year 1797. But for the particulars of this part of the volume, we refer our readers to a letter we some months ago received from the author, and inserted in our Review, N^o IX. p. 279.

The last chapter of this work contains remarks on the whole of the preceding evidence, with a review of the secondary cases published by Dr. Rollo. Mr. Blair here observes, and we think with great truth, “ It may now be easily determined, Whether these substances be possessed of *specific* virtues, such

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as reside in mercury? Whether any injustice would be done them, in denying that they have *real* antivenereal power? and, Whether they ought *solely* to be trusted in any indubitable instance of a confirmed syphilis?—These are the grand questions to be decided; and upon these points I have no scruple in answering negatively, that the oxygenated medicines are not specifics in the lues venerea; that they are totally devoid of real antisiphilitic virtue; and that in no case of the genuine disease can they be safely relied on: consequently, they are unfit substitutes for mercury, wherever that mineral is plainly indicated; *i. e.* wherever a syphilitic affection actually exists.

‘ If good judges agree with me in opinion, their indignation, I think, may render *speculative* authors more cautious how they lightly treat sincere reporters, and questions of the highest interest.’

“ In the preliminary observations to the First Part of this Essay, I remarked that ‘ the introduction of a new medicine is usually accompanied with difficulties. There is danger, on one side, lest its virtues should be exaggerated beyond the limits of truth, through the zeal and precipitancy of its advocates; while, on the other hand, there is cause to apprehend that its *real merits* may be denied by supercilious and prejudiced practitioners.’ We must not, therefore, refuse a just tribute of praise to the nitrous acid, although it ought positively to be excluded from the number of genuine antisiphilitics.

“ The discriminating editor of the ‘ New Reports ’ affirms, that ‘ the great mother-problem is, *Whether these remedies will do any sort of good in the venereal disease?*’ and that ‘ *Whether the treatment recently proposed can be substituted for the old?*’ is one of ‘ the subordinate questions.’ I have presumed to reverse this order of the investigation, as the latter inquiry is by far the most important. But this question having been negatived, let us further inquire, WHETHER THESE MEDICINES WILL DO ANY SORT OF GOOD TO PATIENTS

LABOURING

LABOURING UNDER THE VENEREAL DISEASE OR ITS CONSEQUENCES?

“ From the general mass of evidence before me, as well as from my own recent trials, (which, though extensive and greatly varied, need not be here detailed,) I venture to pronounce, that permanent good may be derived from the judicious administration of the new remedies. Indeed, so much benefit, I think, will accrue from their use, as fully to recompense the labour of those who have most exerted themselves in the present controversy. By making this free concession, I do not mean to give the merit of a new discovery to Mr. Scott, nor to any of the modern experimenters: for acids have been long employed by other practitioners in medicine. Modern writers, however, deserve commendation for bringing these remedies forward to public notice, and attempting to define their virtues more explicitly. For my own part, I seem convinced that several particulars have been already ascertained; and that future observers will not be able to invalidate the following conclusions.

“ 1. Dyspeptic and debilitated venereal patients (if they be not hectic) almost certainly receive benefit from the daily use of the acids, in conjunction, or given alternately, with mercury. They not only have their general strength and appetite improved, but are also enabled to bear the proper quantity of mercury much better than when it is administered alone.

“ 2. In erysipelatous, phagedænic, languid, fistulous, and irritable ulcers, where no venereal infection exists, and where mercury would probably do harm, the diluted acids are sometimes astonishingly efficacious, employed externally as well as internally.

“ 3. Old chronic pains and tumours in the bones, ligaments, and membranous parts, have been alleviated by the internal use of the new remedies; especially when these symptoms arose from the mal-administration of mercury.

“ 4. The

“ 4. The nitric lotion is often serviceable in cases of excoriated glans or prepuce, &c. accompanied with a puriform discharge, where the degree of swelling, pain, and inflammation are inconsiderable: but the common saturnine wash appears to be equally beneficial, and has the advantage of never increasing the inflammatory symptoms.

“ 5. Gonorrhœa and leucorrhœa may now and then be removed by the acids, employed internally or by injection; but they often will produce a troublesome dysuria, and are not so certain in arresting those discharges as the common means of cure.

“ 6. Buboes tending to suppuration, and indurated lymphatic glands, have sometimes been dispersed by these medicines; but, in this respect likewise, they are inferior to other modes of treatment.

“ 7. Although the result of my own experience has not encouraged me to persist in the use of M. Alyon's ‘oxygenated lard,’ several practitioners in London have composed an ointment (impregnated with nitrous acid) which is highly serviceable in herpetic, impetiginous, and itchy eruptions. In such cases, I have repeatedly seen good effects from the nitric mixture and lotion.

“ 8. Most of the local inconveniences which arise from an incautious use of mercury, such as ulcerated cheeks, swelled tongue, spongy gums, loose teeth, foetid breath, and profuse salivation, (however paradoxical it may seem,) have been more speedily and effectually relieved by the internal exhibition of the acids, than by any other medical treatment hitherto employed; so that, for these purposes, I now trust to them confidently, and almost exclusively.

“ 9. Under no circumstances of disease, or peculiarity of constitution, has the oxygenated muriate of potash appeared to me preferable to the acids; but, on the contrary, the latter have proved much more beneficial, and less injurious to the system, than the former. This remark, perhaps, will hold
equally

equally true of the oxygen gas ; respecting which, however, the evidence is at present too defective to ground any solid conclusion upon. I think also, that very little reliance can be placed on the nitric acid bath, except for some cutaneous affections.

“ 10. I have never derived any manifest advantage from increasing the daily quantity of the acids to more than two drachms ; and, in common, I find *one measured drachm* sufficient, either diluted in plain water, or qualified with syrup, opium, or ardent spirits. For a lotion or injection, I mix from twenty to sixty drops of the concentrated acid with a pint of pure water.

“ 11. Of all the different acids, I have seen most benefit from the nitrous or nitric. The latter is more palatable, though not more efficacious, than the former ; but in certain constitutions, none of the acids will agree ; and in some cases, especially where considerable inflammation exists, it is highly improper to exhibit them. When they did not *speedily* improve the appetite, and afford an increase of vigour, I have seldom seen any future benefit to the general health from their continued exhibition.

“ 12. Where ‘ the saline antisypilitics,’ as they are called, have disagreed, some of the following unpleasant consequences ensued : *viz.* violent nausea, vomiting, flatulency, cardialgia, eroding pains in the stomach, diarrhœa, dysentery, obstinate constipation, heat in the bowels, constant itching of the skin, miliary eruptions, universal tremor, frequent cold shiverings, extreme giddiness, throbbing in the head, disordered intellect, erethismus, irregular palpitation of the heart, intermitting and quick pulse, dyspnœa, ardor urinæ, forcing pain of the uterus, diminished or suppressed secretion of bile, spitting of blood, hæmorrhage from the nose, ophthalmia, and phlogistic diathesis ; to which may be added (in some few examples) an injurious effect on the enamel of the teeth, inflamed lips, swelled cheeks, deep ulcers of the tongue, and copious ptyalism.

“ 13. I

“ 13. I regard the chemical explanation which has generally been given of the *modus operandi* of the new remedies and of mercury, in the venereal disease, as entirely hypothetical. But, whatever be their respective mode of action, their sensible effects are not strictly analogous to each other; for the salivation, now and then arising from the free use of the acids, is very different from a mercurial ptyalism, being unaccompanied with looseness of the teeth, spongy gums, or foetid breath; and their constitutional effects, in many particulars, seem of an opposite nature from those which are experienced by a long-continued course of mercury.”

The author concludes his Essay with a severe, but just, rejoinder to the illiberal and contemptuous observations of Dr. Beddoes, in his last “Reports” on this subject. As in our account of that work we freely expressed our disapprobation of the personality and sarcasm which were introduced, we do not feel it necessary for us to add any thing here respecting it.

On the whole, Mr. Blair’s work will be found a most useful publication,—since it exhibits an epitome of what all other writers have advanced on this important controversy, and contains much interesting and original matter. P.

ART. IX. *A Series of Engravings, accompanied with Explanations, which are intended to illustrate the morbid Anatomy of some of the most important Parts of the human Body. Fasciculus III. Comprehending the chief morbid Appearances of the Pharynx, the Œsophagus, and the Stomach.* By MATTHEW BAILLIE, M. D. F. R. S. &c. Royal 4to. JOHNSON, London. 1800. Price 14s.

A READY sale of the two former numbers of this work having encouraged the author to proceed, (See LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW, vol. i. p. 52, and vol. ii. p. 64.) he now acquaints

VOL. III. N^O XIV. 2 quaints

quaints the public that the whole undertaking will probably be completed in nine fasciculi.

The present fasciculus contains seven plates; which represent some circumstances depending upon extraneous bodies admitted into the pharynx, or the œsophagus; a layer of white matter which lines the cavity of the pharynx, and the œsophagus, in thrush; some tumours in the œsophagus, which occasioned an obstruction; the appearances observable in ulcers, and in strictures of the œsophagus; ulceration, scirrhus, and cancer of the stomach; and the effects of the gastric juice on that organ. X.

ART. X. *A general View of the Nature and Objects of Chemistry, and of its Application to Arts and Manufactures.* By WILLIAM HENRY, Member of the Royal Medical, and Natural History Societies of Edinburgh; of the Chemical Society of Jena in Saxony; and of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester. Octavo. 44 pages. JOHNSON, London. 1799. Price 1s. 6d.

WE are here presented with an outline of the objects and plan of a course of chemical lectures delivered by the author, at Manchester. Mr. Henry, after having explained why he was induced to depart from the usage of prefacing his course by an history of the science, enters into the distinctions between natural philosophy and chemistry.

“Natural philosophy,” says he, “in its most extensive sense, is a term comprehending every science that has for its objects the properties and affections of matter. But it has attained, by the sanction of common language, a more limited signification; and chemistry, though strictly a branch of natural philosophy, is generally regarded as a distinct science. Between the two it may perhaps be difficult to mark out precisely the line of separation: but an obvious character of the facts

facts of natural philosophy is, that they are always attended with sensible motion ; and the determination of the laws of motion is peculiarly the office of its cultivators. Chemical changes, on the other hand, of the most important kind often take place without any apparent motion, either of the mass or of its minute parts ; and where the eye is unable to perceive that any change has occurred. The laws of gravitation, of central forces, and all the other powers that fall under the cognisance of the natural philosopher, produce, at most, only a change of place in the bodies that are influenced by them. But in chemical changes we may always observe an important difference in the outward properties of things. Two highly corrosive substances, by uniting chemically together, may become mild and harmless ; the combination of two colourless substances may present us with a compound of brilliant complexion ; and the union of two fluids, with a compact and solid mass.

“ Chemistry, therefore, may be defined that science whose object is to discover and explain the changes of composition, that occur among the integrant and constituent parts of bodies.

“ From this definition, it may be readily conceived how wide is the range of chemical inquiry ; and by applying it to the various events that daily occur in the order of nature we shall be enabled to separate them with accuracy, and to allot to the sciences of natural philosophy and chemistry the proper objects of the cultivation of each. Whenever a change of place is a necessary part of any event, we shall call in the aid of the former. When this condition may be dispensed with, we shall resort to chemistry for the light of its principles. But it will be often found, that the concurrence of the two sciences is essential to the full explanation of phenomena. The water of the ocean, for example, is raised into the atmosphere by its chemical combination with the matter of heat ; but the clouds that are thus formed maintain their elevated situation by virtue of a specific gravity less than that of the lower regions of the

air; a law, whose discovery and application are due to the natural philosopher, strictly so called."

The science of chemistry demands respect and attention, not only as it is calculated to afford "the indulgence of an enlightened curiosity," but as "it is capable of ministering to our wants and our luxuries, and teaches us to convert to the purposes of common life many substances which nature presents to us in a rude and useless form. The extraction of metals from their ores; the conversion of the rudest materials into the beautiful fabrics of glass and porcelain; the production of wine, ardent spirits, and vinegar; and the dying of linen and woollen manufactures, are only a few of the arts that are dependant on chemistry for their improvement, and even for their successful practice."

The general uses of chemistry having been insisted on, Mr. H. points out, in detail, a few of its more striking applications: *viz.*

"I. The art which is of all others most interesting, from its subserviency to wants that are interwoven with our nature, is agriculture, or the art of obtaining from the earth the largest crops of useful vegetables at the smallest expense.

"The vegetable kingdom agrees with the animal one in the possession of a living principle. Every individual of this kingdom is regularly organized, and requires for its support an unceasing supply of food, which is converted, as in the animal body, into substances of various forms and qualities. Each plant has its periods of growth, health, disease, decay, and death, and is affected in all these particulars by the varying condition of external circumstances. A perfect state of agricultural knowledge would require, therefore, not only a minute acquaintance with the structure and economy of vegetables, but with the nature and effects of the great variety of external agents that contribute to their nutriment, or influence their state of health and vigour. The former attainment, it can hardly be expected, will ever be generally made by practical farmers; and

and it is in bringing the agriculturist acquainted with the precise composition of soils and manures that chemistry promises the most solid advantages. Indeed, any knowledge that can be acquired on this subject without the aid of chemistry must be vague and indistinct, and can neither enable its possessor to produce an intended effect with certainty, nor be communicated to others in language sufficiently intelligible. Thus we are told by Mr. Arthur Young, that in some parts of England any loose clay is called marl, in others marl is called chalk, and in others clay is called loam. From this confused application of terms, all general benefits of experience in agriculture must be greatly limited.

“ Chemistry may, to agriculturists, become an universal language, in which the facts that are observed in this art may be so clothed as to be intelligible to all nations and ages. It would be desirable, for example, when a writer speaks of clay, loam, or marl, that he should explain his conception of these terms by stating the chemical composition of each substance expressed by them. For all the variety of soils and manures, and all the diversified productions of the vegetable kingdom, are capable of being resolved, by chemical analysis, into a small number of elementary ingredients. The formation of a well-defined language, expressing the proportion of these elements, in the various soils and manures now so vaguely characterised, would give an accuracy and precision hitherto unknown to the experience of the tillers of the earth.

“ It has been said by those who contend for pure empiricism in the art of agriculture, that it has remained stationary, notwithstanding all improvements in the sciences, for more than two thousand years. ‘ To refute this assertion,’ says Mr. Kirwan, ‘ we need only compare the writings of Cato, Columella, or Pliny, with many modern tracts, or, still better, with the modern practice of our best farmers.’—‘ If the exact connexion of effects with their causes,’ he adds, ‘ has not been so fully and extensively traced in this as in other subjects,

‘jects, we must attribute it to the peculiar difficulty of the
 ‘investigation. In other subjects, exposed to the joint ope-
 ‘ration of many causes, the effect of each, singly and exclu-
 ‘sively taken, may be particularly examined, and the expe-
 ‘rimentor may work in his laboratory with the object always
 ‘in his view. But the secret processes of vegetation take place
 ‘in the dark, exposed to the various and indeterminable influ-
 ‘ences of the atmosphere, and require, at least, half a year for
 ‘their completion. Hence the difficulty of determining on
 ‘what peculiar circumstance success or failure depends; for
 ‘the diversified experience of many years can alone afford a
 ‘rational foundation for solid, specific conclusions.’

“ II. To those who study MEDICINE as a branch of general science, or with the more important view of practical utility, chemistry may be recommended with peculiar force and propriety.—The animal body may be regarded as a living machine obeying the same laws of motion as are daily exemplified in the productions of human art. The arteries are long, flexible, and elastic canals, admitting in some measure the application of the doctrine of hydraulics; and the muscles are so many levers of precisely the same effect with those which are employed to gain power in mechanical contrivances. But there is another view in which, with equal justice, the living body may be contemplated. It is a laboratory, in which are constantly going forwards processes of various kinds, dependant on the operation of chemical affinities. The conversion of the various kinds of food into blood, a fluid of comparatively uniform composition and qualities, the production of animal heat by the action of the air on that fluid as it passes through the lungs, and the changes which the blood afterwards undergoes in its course through the body, are all exclusively subjects of chemical inquiry. To these and many other questions of physiology chemistry has of late years been applied with the most encouraging success; and it is to a long-continued prosecution of the same plan that we are to look for a system of physiological science which shall

shall derive new vigour and lustre from the passing series of years. It would be easy to enlarge on this subject, but there are others more generally interesting; and to them, therefore, let us hasten.

“ III. There is an extensive class of arts, forming, when viewed collectively, a great part of the objects of human industry, which do not, on a loose and hasty observation, present any general principle of dependency or connexion. But they appear thus unconnected because we have been accustomed to attend only to the productions of these arts, which are, in truth, subservient to widely different purposes. Who would conceive, for instance, that iron and common salt, the one a metal whose use results from its hardness, ductility, and malleability, the other a substance chiefly valuable from its acting as a preservative and seasoner of food, are furnished by arts alike dependant on the general principles of chemistry? The application of science, in discovering the principles of these arts, constitutes what has been termed economical chemistry; amongst the numerous objects of which the following stand most distinguished:

“ 1stly. Metallurgy, or the act of extracting metals from their ores, comprehending that of assaying, by which we are enabled to judge, from the composition of a small portion, of the propriety of working large and extensive strata. To the metallurgist also belong the various modifications of the metals when obtained, and the union of them together, in different proportions, so as to afford compounds adapted to particular uses.—Throughout the whole of this art much practical knowledge may be suggested by attention to the general doctrines of chemistry. The artist may receive useful hints respecting the construction of furnaces for the fusion of ores and metals, the employment of the proper fluxes, the utility of the admission or exclusion of air, and the conversion to useful purposes of the refuse of his several operations. When the metals have been separated from their ores they are to be again sub-
jected

jected to various chemical processes. Cast or pig iron is to be changed into the forms of wrought or malleable iron, and of steel. Copper, by combination with zinc or tin, affords the various compounds of brass, pinchbeck, bell-metal, gun-metal, &c. Even the art of printing owes something of its present unexampled perfection to the improvement of the metal of types.

“ 2dly. Chemistry is the foundation of those arts that furnish us with saline substances, an order of bodies highly useful in the businesses of common life. Amongst these the most conspicuous are, sugar in all its various forms; the vegetable and mineral alkalis, known in commerce by the names of potash, pearlash, and barilla; common salt, green and blue vitriol, and alum; nitre or saltpetre, sugar of lead, borax, and a long catalogue, which it is needless to extend farther.

“ 3dly. The manufacturer of glass, and of various kinds of pottery and porcelain, should be thoroughly acquainted with the nature of the substances he employs; with their fusibility, as affected by difference of proportion, or by the admixture of foreign ingredients; with the means of regulating and measuring high degrees of heat; with the principles on which depend the hardness of his products, and their fitness for bearing the vicissitudes of heat and cold; and with the chemical properties of the best adapted colours and glazings. Even the humble art of making bricks and tiles has received from the chemical knowledge of Bergman the addition of several interesting facts.

“ 4thly. The preparation of various kinds of fermented liquors, of wine and ardent spirits, is intimately connected with chemical principles. Malting, the first step in the production of some of these liquors, consists in the conversion of part of the grain into saccharine matter, essential in every instance to the success of the fermentative change. To acquire a precise acquaintance with the circumstances that favour or injure the process of fermentation, no small share of chemical knowledge

knowledge is required. The brewer should be able to ascertain and regulate exactly the strength of his infusions, which will vary greatly when he has seemingly followed the same routine. He should be aware of the influence of minute changes of temperature in retarding or advancing fermentation; of the means of promoting it by proper ferments, and of the influence of the presence or exclusion of atmospherical air. A complete acquaintance with the chemical principles of his art can hardly fail to afford him essential aid in its practice.

“ The production of ardent spirits is only a sequel of the vinous fermentation, and is therefore alike dependant on the doctrines of chemistry.

“ 5thly. The arts of bleaching, dying, and printing, are throughout a tissue of chemical operations. It is not unusual to hear the new mode of bleaching, distinguished by the appellation of the chemical method; but it is, in fact, not more dependant on the principles of this science than the one which it has superseded, nor than the kindred arts of dying and printing. In the instance of bleaching, the obligation due to the speculative chemist is universally felt and acknowledged. But the dyer and printer have yet to receive from the philosopher some splendid invention, which shall command their respect, and excite their attention to chemical science. From purely speculative men, however, much less is to be expected than from men of enlightened experience, who endeavour to discover the design and reason of each step in the processes of their arts, and fit themselves for more effectual observation of particulars by diligently possessing themselves of general truths.

“ The objects of inquiry that present themselves to the dyer and printer are of considerable number and importance. The preparation of goods for the reception of colouring matter; the application of the best bases, or means of fixing fugitive colours; the improvement of colouring ingredients themselves;

and the means of rendering them permanent, so that they shall not be affected by soap, or by the accidental contact of acids, or other corrosive bodies; are amongst the subjects of chemical investigation. It is the business of the dyer, therefore, to become a chemist; and he may be assured, that even if no brilliant discovery should be the reward of the acquisition, he will yet be better fitted by it for conducting common operations with certain and unvaried success."

The author then concludes this interesting little tract, by developing the plan on which he conducts his lectures. T.

MEDICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Art. 1. *Translation of a Letter from Mr. STROMEGER to Mr. HUNNEMAN, concerning the Vaccine Inoculation, practised by him; dated Hanover, March 24, 1800.*

THIS year we have inoculated forty persons, as well with the vaccine matter received of Dr. Pearson as that of Dr. Jenner, all of which went properly through the disease.

Betwixt the London and Gloucester vaccine matter, it appears to me, there subsists an essential difference. The London matter produces frequently an eruption of small pimples, but they disappear within a day, or two days at farthest. Dr. Pearson calls these eruptions pimples. The Gloucester matter has never produced this effect here; but it frequently occasioned ulcerations of the inoculated part, of a tedious and long duration, which the former matter never did; on account of which I now only make use of Dr. Pearson's vaccine matter.

The nettle-fever-like eruptions I have observed several times, but never that sort of eruption, repeatedly noticed in London, which so much resembles the small-pox.

Of all those I have inoculated, none were severely ill during the disease. Their general symptoms were, a slight fever, depression of spirits, and a pale countenance. A few instances

instances in which the inoculated part arrived to a due degree of perfection, and where a swelling of the axillary glands was observed, no signs of any illness were present, at least no symptoms could be noticed, which proved the infection to have acted upon the whole system. These latter ones I shall reinoculate; and in case the result should be the same as the first, would it be fair to suppose them safe against the small-pox infection?

Most of our physicians here exclaim against the vaccine inoculation; and their only weak, and almost refuted, argument is, Are people thus secured for all their lifetime against the small-pox? Nevertheless, I have the satisfaction to see a partiality for it displayed by the greater part of the public, and I have already inoculated many noblemen's children, as well as those of other very respectable inhabitants of Hanover; and, without doubt, I shall always have subjects enough for continuing this inoculation.

On the 9th, 10th, or 11th day, when the inoculated pustule is filled with lymph, and the surrounding inflammation is complete, I am then in the habit of opening it, and to collect the lymph on cotton thread, and immediately after I lay some more thread upon it, which is removed the following day; all of which serves for future inoculations. After this period I have hitherto desisted to repeat collecting more matter from such a pustule, but wish to know how long it might be continued.

I shall esteem it a great favour, if you will lay these results and questions before Dr. Pearson, and beg he will have the goodness to answer them.

In Langenhagen, a village near Hanover, I have inoculated the clergyman's children, along with four others, which influenced many farmers and peasants to have their own children also inoculated.

From Halle, Halberstadt, and many other places, I have received applications for vaccine matter; which proves, that

the Continent has as many adherents to the vaccine inoculation as there are in England.

Dr. Ballhorn, an intimate and long acquaintance of mine, has assisted me in most of these operations, in order that he might visit the inoculated patients whenever my time will not admit of it.

In numbers 15 and 16 of the Hanoverian Magazine, we have published our last year's inoculations, and we intend continuing the same from time to time. With Dr. De Carro of Vienna, whom Dr. Pearson knows, and who occupies himself greatly with this inoculation, we correspond.

Only one of our this year's patients has been inoculated for the small-pox; a pustule was produced upon the inoculated part, accompanied with a slight surrounding inflammation, but no other effect whatever.

Art. 2. *Case of obstinate Headach, relieved by a Course of Mercury.* Communicated by Mr. ROGERS of Maningtree, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING recently looked over a few observations made in the course of my practice, I have selected a case of headach attended with peculiar circumstances; which I request you to insert in your London Medical Review and Magazine, if it meet your approbation.

Mr. P. aged 30, the gentleman who is the subject of the following remarks, had been seriously afflicted for three months with a violent pain in the upper and fore part of his head, which rendered him totally unfit for the prosecution of his business, and at times proved so distressing as nearly to deprive him of his senses. Having confided in the vain hope of getting better by indulging in rest, and occasionally using
a little

a little opening medicine; he at length found himself becoming daily more and more oppressed, and, in the month of February 1798, thought proper to make application to me. His condition at the time I first visited him was nearly as follows: His body emaciated, appetite entirely wanting, pulse hard and quick, bowels rather costive, his tongue moist, and covered in the centre with a whitish crust. There was no appearance of the pupils of the eyes being dilated, so as to create a suspicion of the brain being particularly injured by pressure or disease; and the pain was not confined to one specific spot, but diffused over the whole extent of the os frontis.

From the above statement I was greatly in hopes that, by adopting the antiphlogistic regimen, my patient would shortly recover; and I accordingly directed an epispastic to be applied to the nape of the neck, leeches to the temples twice a week, low diet, with milk occasionally, and weak broths. This plan was punctually attended to for a fortnight, when I thought proper to amend his diet a little, on account of his reduced condition, and was concerned to find him still complaining of excessive pain, and, in short, but very little relieved. At the expiration of another week I judged it expedient to repeat the blister, and omit the application of leeches. For a short time after this repetition of the blister, he flattered himself with being considerably better; but was soon mortified in finding this glimmering ray of hope overcast by the gloomy cloud of anguish and despair which had constantly hung over him. The pain was at this time as violent as ever; and in my usual way of examining the external surface of the cranium, he complained of its being rather tender in one particular part, and I thought I could distinguish a little enlargement of the periosteum, about the centre of the frontal bone.

Finding that every attempt hitherto had proved abortive, and that some local affection, which before had not prevailed, now subsisted, made me disposed to believe that something
more

more than I was yet acquainted with did certainly attend the nature of the case: I accordingly made further inquiry, and desired my patient ingenuously to declare whether he had ever been infected with the venereal disease; but his answer was decidedly in the negative. In the course of a week or ten days, however, observing this tumefaction evidently more tender to the touch, and larger, I resolved at all events to try the effects of mercury; and from the reduced state of his constitution, I thought inunction the most proper mode; beginning with small quantities, and increasing them in proportion to the effect required, for the space of two weeks. I was of opinion, that the pain appeared more confined to this particular part, and somewhat relieved; and being highly gratified with this favourable, though trifling improvement, I was still more solicitous for a renewal of my former inquiry. With much reluctance (being a married man) he at length confessed that he had been infected with the lues, about sixteen months before, in the form of chancre and bubo, which confined him *only three weeks*; at the expiration of which time he was pronounced cured. This confirmed me in the opinion I had formed, and consequently induced me to pursue my intended plan with greater satisfaction; and in the course of another week, I found the tumefied part considerably less tender, and the pain evidently continuing to abate. Three weeks more had scarcely elapsed before my patient was totally relieved from this miserable condition; the tumefaction subsided, the pain dispelled, and his appetite was beginning to return. I deemed it unnecessary to confine him any longer, and esteemed him perfectly well; and I find that he has enjoyed a comfortable state of health from that time to the present.

REMARKS.

Surely there cannot be a doubt that the whole of this disorder of the head was produced from a venereal taint in the constitution, affecting that part in particular; and which afterwards discovered itself in the form of a node! Is it not very

unusual for the head to be thus affected by lues, *without any other concomitant symptom of the disease?* Was there any criterion by which I could have judged otherwise than I at first did? and was I not justified in altering my former mode of treatment when I discovered it to be ineffectual, and particularly when I perceived an enlargement of the periosteum disposed to take place?

I am, Gentlemen,

Maningtree, Essex,

Your most obedient servant,

March 31, 1800.

GEORGE ROGERS.

. We have not inserted this case on account of any supposed peculiarity in its nature, but with the hope of affording an useful hint to *young practitioners*. EDITORS.

Art. 3. *Information relating to the Cow-pox.* Communicated by Mr. R. T. TAYNTON, Surgeon at Bromley in Kent.

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

IF any additional testimony respecting the advantages of the vaccine inoculation should not be deemed superfluous, I beg leave to lay before you a brief statement of the success attending it in my own practice. During the last five weeks I have inoculated a great number of patients; chiefly children, but some few adults. The disease has been universally mild; so much so, indeed, that in most of the cases no derangement of the system whatever could be observable. Others were feverish, and slightly indisposed; some on the 6th day, others on the 7th, 8th, or 9th.

In no one instance has there been any thing like an eruption of pustules. I have noticed a few pimples in two or three infants, but they generally disappeared in twenty-four hours.

I think the case of one infant of four months rather remarkable. It was inoculated on the 4th of March; I examined

mined the arm daily, but there was no appearance of inflammation. On the 12th day I was about to repeat the operation, when I discovered a slight degree of redness. From that time the disease went through its course very rapidly, ending on the 18th day; which has seemed to me to be the usual term of its duration. The arms of two children were prodigiously inflamed, but subsided without any troublesome consequences.

I have decidedly proved, what indeed has before been so frequently done, that the disease is *not infectious*: having, for the sake of experiment, inoculated *only* part of a family where none of them had ever had the small-pox. I have also inoculated many of the same patients with small-pox matter, but it has taken no effect.

The advantages resulting to the lower classes of people from the introduction of the vaccine-pock are evidently very great, as they are able to pursue their usual employments without any inconvenience.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Bromley, Kent,
April 10th, 1800.

Your most obedient humble servant,
R. T. TAYNTON.

Art. 4. *An explanatory Note, addressed to the Editors, by BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, A. M. of Leicester Square.*

WE have received a note from Mr. Perkins (dated April the 11th,) in which he desires that the observations made in our last Number, concerning his tractors and advertisement, may be corrected.

As to the copy of a letter from the Royal Society, (See p. 53 of our Number for March.) Mr. Perkins says it was published “merely with a view to confront the *matter of civility* which issued from that honourable body with the intemperate language of Surgeon Smith.” The paragraph in the newspapers, he tells

tells us, "neither did nor was intended to express that the R. S. had come to a vote on the merits of the tractors;" in proof of which we are referred to an explanatory paragraph he caused to be inserted in the *Courier* for the 11th of March 1800.

If our intelligent readers should be satisfied with this explanation and be disposed to think more favourably of the metallic PRACTICE, we shall not be solicitous to undeceive them: but, for our own part, the opinions we have given remain unaltered. As a point of justice, however, it seemed proper to notice the present letter from Mr. Perkins.

We here subjoin a transcript of the above-mentioned paragraph in the *Courier*:

"We are requested by Mr. Perkins, proprietor of the metallic tractors, to correct a paragraph which appeared in our paper a few days since, which, it seems, has conveyed the idea to some, that the Royal Society had come to a vote on the merits of the metallic practice. This was not the intention of the paragraph, nor indeed, on an attentive perusal, will it be found to be conveyed therein. The Society returned thanks for a book of experiments on the human body, and on horses,—a compliment they usually pay on similar occasions."

Z. S.

Art. 5. *Observations on the medicinal Properties of Iron.* By MONS. MANDEL. Read at the Society of Health, in the Commune of Nancy, on the 1st of Frimaire, viiith Year.

M. MANDEL, professor of therapeutics and pharmacy, explained the different states in which iron is found naturally, those which may be given to it by art, and the services which it has rendered to mankind by its magnetic properties, particularly in regard to the mariner's compass, and its power of attracting lightning, and conducting it to any place required.

He demonstrated the affinity of this metal with oxygen, the cause of its uniting so easily with saline substances, of its speedy oxydation by air and water, and of its solution in the latter vehicle, which it decomposes. He then proceeded to the action of iron on the animal economy, and took a view of the speedy cures which it effects; and the accidents, on the other hand, which it has occasioned to some individuals, even when the dose was weak. This led him to propose the following very interesting question: Whether the iron which exists materially and formally in our humours, and above all in the blood, might not be considered, on account of its natural increase and diminution, as the cause of a great number of diseases? And he named chlorosis as one of those most likely to conduct to a satisfactory result.

He mentioned the new system (quoting Dr. Rollo,) which holds that the greater or less quantity of oxygen in the blood is the cause of various diseases. Without denying this principle, he combated the application made of it by Dr. Rollo to certain diseases, particularly chlorosis, which he imputes to a privation of oxygen; to restore which, he recommends metallic oxyds, as being proper to furnish oxygen. M. Mandel asserts that this disease is destroyed by medicines capable of carrying off oxygen, instead of introducing it into the system: that it is cured by iron which has undergone no other preparation than a great division of its parts; from which he concludes, that not disoxygenation, but rather *deferrugination*, ought to be assigned as the determining cause.

The author next pointed out the different medical cases in which iron, or preparations of it, ought to be administered; and then examined the question, whether the magnet ought to be admitted among the means of medical cure, or entirely rejected. He gave an account of the different systems of the partisans and antagonists of this mineral: he combated, from experience, the opinion of the latter, and shewed that there was nothing less doubtful than that the iron contained
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in the blood, though in a state of oxyd, cannot be attracted by the loadstone. In the last place, he concluded, without admitting all the wonders ascribed to it, that this mineral ought to be retained among the curative means. M. Salmon, professor of the materia medica, communicated two observations which tended to support the last assertion.

Art. 6. *An extraordinary Case of Ranula.* Communicated to the Editors by Dr. MACARTAN of London, late Physician to the Military Hospital at Valenciennes.

ON the 4th of August 1797, I was consulted by M. Gromaire, a French emigrant priest, of Brewer Street, Golden Square, for a considerable tumour situated precisely under his tongue. The account he gave me was, that the preceding day he enjoyed perfect health, but was suddenly awoken in the night by an inexpressible pain and swelling under the tongue, which threatened him with immediate suffocation. It had the appearance of a second tongue, was extremely red, and inclining to a bluish hue, and was almost of a cartilaginous consistence. The patient was 33 years of age, of a bilious constitution, living low and abstemiously, on account of the moderate resources he was at that time confined to. Under such circumstances, one would not have imagined that he could have favoured any true inflammatory affection; yet the tumour was accompanied by a very acute fever, and a strong pulse, which beat 115 pulsations in a minute, instead of 60, which was natural to him when in health. I am happy in having it in my power to give the physiological and pathological state of my patient's pulse, as I conceive it of the highest importance in ascertaining the symptoms, and regulating the treatment of a disease*. The velocity,

* I never was more forcibly convinced of the importance of this observation than in the case of a student in surgery at the Hotel-Dieu

locity, the tension, and the plenitude of the pulse; the pain, the tumefaction, and the place of the inflammation, all pointed out an antiphlogistic treatment. Twelve leeches were immediately applied on the neck exactly below the tumour, with a view to resolve the inflammation; and the following electuary was ordered to be taken in the course of twenty-four hours. This, together with the gargle, I hoped would produce the desired effect:

R Crem. tartar. ℥j, Pulv. sal. nitri ℥iij, Mellis Anglic. ℥iβ, Syr. sacchar. q. s. ut fiat electuarium.

R Pulv. sinap. alb. ℥β. Infunde in aquæ bullient. ℥xvj. Colat. adde Oxym. simplic. ℥ij. F^t gargarisma.

On the second day my patient assured me that he had suffered much less, and considered himself in every respect better. The tumour was smaller, the inflammation disappearing, and the pulse was reduced to 72 pulsations in the minute. He had passed, however, an indifferent night. In this state, I did not imagine the tumour would suppurate, and ordered the electuary to be repeated, and prescribed diluents of simple whey and lemonade.

On the third day I was surprised to find that every favourable symptom had disappeared; and from the increase of the inflammation and tumour, I abandoned all hopes of resolution. He had had no rest all the night, and complained of a violent pain in his head, and throbbing in his temples. In

at Paris, who, after having been confined a considerable time for a continued fever, was again condemned by his physician to a strict and low diet for fifteen days, in consequence of his pulse beating 100 per minute, which was its natural standard. I remember also attending M. Gaultier, with two physicians of this metropolis, for a violent inflammation of the liver. In consequence of the continued velocity of his pulse, all hopes of resolving the inflammation were abandoned, yet it was effected. Now, had we known that the ordinary velocity of this gentlemen's pulse, when in perfect health, was about 100, we should certainly have less feared the mischief we were apprehensive of, and have prognosticated the favourable termination.

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this state I did not hesitate to have recourse to a powerful bleeding, which, it was presumed, would ease the patient without retarding the suppuration, and ordered him to continue the use of the electuary and diluents as yesterday.

He passed a dreadful night, and on the following day, which was the fourth from the commencement of the first appearance of the disease, the tumour burst, and gave vent to almost a table-spoonful of good pus, mixed with a calcareous grit, and two long rough calculi,—weighing together only thirteen grains when dry, having each of them, at the extremity which came in contact with each other, a kind of articular surface, formed as if the one moved upon the other.

Art. 7. *Remarks on the Efficacy of Mustard, employed as a Sialogogue in Cases of Angina œdematosa.* By Dr. MACARTAN.

SEVERAL cases have come under my observation, of sore throat, wherein I have been often apprehensive that my patients would have been suffocated. In almost every instance a gargle of mustard has been employed with the happiest success; and as I am anxious that so valuable and speedy a remedy should be as generally known as possible, I have extracted the following case from my note-book, and as it gave rise to its use, I preferred selecting it, on that account, to several others very analogous to it.

Towards the middle of July 1792, a labouring mason, being enrolled for the national guard, presented himself in this capacity to the Military Hospital at Valenciennes, to which I then was physician, for a peripneumonia catarrhalis. He was bled, purged, and blistered, which, with the assistance of some diaphoretic expectorants, nearly recovered him by the end of the same month. His appetite was good, and he had no further complaint, except an abundant expectoration, characterised by all the signs of a critical evacuation. It was at
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this period that he thought proper to quit the hospital, without being discharged therefrom. Sixteen days after, I was called in to attend him at his brother's, who (the patient being unable to speak) gave me the following account: That soon after he run away from the hospital he was exposed to a shower of rain that soaked him through and through; that when he came in this wet condition into the house, he complained of being very cold, was soon after seized with shiverings, and the next day with a sore throat; that not daring to shew himself at the hospital, he had consulted another physician, who directed him to be bled three successive times; that after each bleeding he found himself more embarrassed in the throat, and that, as he was daily getting worse, and his life despaired of, he sent for me. At this time he had a very violent cough, attended with the raising of a mucous substance from the lungs as far as the top of the larynx, where it remained, producing dreadful agitations of the system, he not being able to spit it out on account of the tumefaction of the fauces. The swelling of the throat was such as entirely to impede deglutition, and totally suppress the voice. The respiration was very laborious, the pulse beat unequally, and about 66 in the minute, counting those which the difficulty of the breathing occasionally intercepted. The part I could see of the swelled fauces was not accompanied with that great degree of paleness and softness which are reckoned by Sauvages as the characteristic signs of the *anginosa aquosa*. There was no compression on the jugular veins, to produce any effects analogous to the artificial angina, which Lower effected on the dog by the ligature round the neck*.

The great distension of the parts, the state of the pulse, the reduced situation of the patient, the effect of the preceding bleedings, the countenance of the person, the continuance of the affection, and other concomitant symptoms, all attested

* See Lower de Corde, cap. ii. p. 123.

the presence of the angina aquosa, or, if I may be permitted the expression, the angina oedematosa; consequently the indication was to evacuate the accumulated serum by prompt means, in order to prevent the great existing danger of my patient being suffocated, or being attacked with apoplexy. I prescribed immediately as follows:

1. An irritating purgative glyster, composed of one ounce of antimonial wine and ten of senna infusion.

2. Cupping-glasses about the clavicles.

3. A large blister to the nape of the neck.

4. A gargle composed of a strong decoction of the radix pyrrh. with oxymel of squills, aromatic tincture, and eau de luce. But apprehensive that the preparing of this gargle would cause an immense loss of time, and aware of a sudden dissolution, I directed, in order to lose no time, some flour of mustard to be put into some water, in the proportion of two table-spoonfuls to half a pint. I urged him to gargle his throat with it, but he made signs with his hands that he could not. I then ordered a little of it to be moved about in his mouth: the same impossibility. I then insisted upon his keeping a little in his mouth for two or three minutes, when he was obliged to let it out from the accumulation of saliva. In this manner it was employed in my presence for half an hour, and the flow of saliva was astonishing. Before I left the room, which was near an hour from the time he began the mustard gargle, he could articulate the word "Better," which induced him to continue its use in preference to any other. When I visited him at night, I was really astonished to find he could gargle his throat with freedom, and answer me every question I put to him. The blister upon the nape of the neck was, at the desire of my patient, removed, and a little pomatum laid over the skin, which was becoming red. The morning following, when I called upon him, I found him in high spirits, eating and singing!!

Art. 8. *Cases and Observations tending to prove either the infectious Nature of the Cow-pox, or the Fallacy of some Experiments made in London.* By Mr. BLAIR, Surgeon of the Lock Hospital and Finsbury Dispensary, &c.

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

IT is a commonly received opinion, that the genuine vaccine poison is not capable of being transmitted from one person to another in the state of effluvia or gas. This persuasion has afforded one of the strongest arguments in favour of the new inoculation; and, if demonstrable, is undoubtedly a vantage ground, of which every practitioner should avail himself, who wishes to extirpate the small-pox. Dr. Woodville (to whose benevolent exertions human nature must for ever stand indebted) is the only author, so far as I know, who believes the vaccine disease, under any circumstances, is “*capable of infecting in the same manner as the small-pox:*” he has told us, in his valuable Reports on this subject, that the vaccine disorder may be communicated by the “*exhalations*” sent forth from cow-pock eruptions! But as the evidence hitherto adduced in proof of this point is not satisfactory to my own mind, and as it is a disputed point among professional men of much larger experience in this complaint than myself, it would be useful to call out the attention of physicians and surgeons to a fair examination of the question. With this view I take the liberty of stating a few facts to the public, through the medium of your Magazine, which seem clearly to establish one of the two following positions:

Either, *The matter with which some of the early cow-pock patients were inoculated, in London, was not the genuine uncontaminated virus:* or, *The vaccine disease is truly infectious, and communicable by means of effluvia arising from the pustules.*

About eleven months ago Mr. Ring, Surgeon in New Street,

informed the Medical Society of London, that he then had a patient under his care with several hundred eruptions arising (as was supposed) from the vaccine inoculation; but that these eruptions were not distinguishable from the small-pox. He reported, that this patient resided at Caroline Court, Saffron Hill; and had been inoculated by Dr. Pearson, from matter received of Dr. Woodville, believed to be the genuine vaccine fluid. Having obtained permission, I visited this patient on the day after Mr. Ring's report; and took a medical gentleman with me, who is not at present in England. The patient was an infant at nurse, and lived with another inoculated child, labouring also under numerous similar eruptions. The child in question, I conjecture, had about seven or eight hundred pustules, on different parts of its body, which so exactly resembled the small-pox, that neither my friend nor I could perceive any difference. I took some of the reputed vaccine matter on a clean lancet, from one of the pustules on the arm of this child; and in a few days my friend inserted it into the arm of Catherine Bath, three months old, living in Baker Street, Clerkenwell. The infant sickened, and became feverish in the usual manner: a crop of eruptions appeared a fortnight after, in different parts of her body; they were nearly an hundred in number, and not quite so prominent nor so large as those in the former patient. When this little subject was inoculated, I observed that another infant (named Charles Twycross) dwelt in the same apartment, and was attended by the same nurse. Some days subsequent to the disappearance of the eruptions on Catherine Bath, Charles Twycross likewise became indisposed; and shortly afterwards he threw out twenty or more pustules, chiefly upon his face, resembling those of his young female companion. This child, therefore, must have been infected by the other, without inoculation!

April 17, 1800.

I remain, &c.

Great Russel Street, Bloomsbury.

W. BLAIR.

Art. 9. *Eight Cases to illustrate the good Effects of BERNARD'S, or FRERE COME'S, Remedy in Cancer of the Face.*
By Mr. THEDEN, Surgeon-general to the Army of the King of Prussia, at Berlin, &c.

ALTHOUGH surgery has of late made great progress, it is to be lamented that it cannot boast of a cure for cancer. The composition, however, which is known by the name of Bernard's Remedy, or the Powder of Frère Côme*, has been employed in several instances with the happiest success by the celebrated THEDEN, who has therefore thought it a duty he owed to society and his brethren to make public the following cases :

Case 1. A countryman, fifty-four years of age, had a cancerous ulcer upon his face for two years, which extended from near the left ear to the middle of the chin, and over the cheek-bone towards the eye; its surface was unequal, presenting considerable elevations and depressions; and it discharged an ichorous and fetid fluid, which continually irritated the parts over which it passed. A thin layer of Frère Côme's powder was applied, and he was ordered to drink abundantly of milk and water. A thick and hard crust soon formed over the whole surface of the ulcer, which entirely separated on the seventeenth day, leaving an ulcerated surface of a very healthy appearance. It was dressed with Locatelli's balsam, and perfectly cured at the end of three weeks.

Case 2. A man, aged forty-six years, had had for three

* The composition of this remedy is as follows:—Take of cinnabar, one drachm; of the ashes procured from burning soles of shoes, eight grains; of dragon's blood, twelve grains; of white arsenic, six grains: powder them all together for use.

This remedy, in substance, was used by Guido de Cauliaco. (See his *Chirurgia Magna*, trac. vii. cap. vi. written in 1363.) He likewise, after the example of his predecessors, applied the corrosive sublimate of mercury as a caustic.

years

years several corroding ulcers upon his nose and upper lip; his face was horrible to look at, on account of the carcinomatous hardnesses about the ulcerations, which were of a livid colour. The pains which he experienced prevented him from sleeping; and the sound parts of his face below the diseased were continually inflamed by the acrimony of the discharge. His tongue was foul, and he was otherwise extremely ill; but these symptoms were soon removed. Frère Côme's preparation was then applied carefully upon the point of the nose, its alæ, and upon the upper lip; thick eschars soon formed, as in the preceding case, which were separated on the sixteenth day: the parts were dressed with Locatelli's balsam, and the cure performed in about four weeks. At the expiration of two years he had no return of the disease.

Case 3. A man, aged forty-six, had had, during four years, an extremely ill-conditioned ulcer on the left side of his nose, which extended to the internal angle of the eye; the discharge was extremely fetid, and it bled upon the least touch; in other respects he was extremely well. Frère Côme's remedy was applied; the eschar formed, and came away on the fourteenth day, leaving an ulcerated surface of an healthy red colour. It was entirely healed at the end of three weeks by dressings of Locatelli's balsam.

Case 4. A Jew, aged twenty-four years, had in vain employed all sorts of remedies against an ulcer on the superior part of the left ala of the nose; it continued getting worse; and the acrimony of the discharge was such as to continually irritate the parts it touched. The same treatment was adopted, and with the same result. During the cure his food consisted chiefly of milk porridge.

Case 5. An officer of the garrison of Berlin had been troubled for many years with an extremely painful ulcer on the right ala of the nose, which had resisted the use of ordinary means. It was cured by the same application in the space of two months.

Case 6. A woman, aged sixty-six, had for several years a cancerous ulcer, extending from the internal angle of the left eye towards the right side of the forehead: a variety of means had been tried to cure it. It was perfectly cicatrised in the space of seven weeks by the same remedy.

Case 7. A woman, fifty-two years of age, had been long tormented by a deep ulcer, which occupied the whole of the left side of the nose. From the application of the arsenical preparation, it was covered with a crust, as is usual, but which did not separate so soon as in the preceding cases. It was determined, at the end of three weeks, that it should be dressed with Locatelli's balsam, from which application, pus was soon seen to escape from under its edges; but it still continued attached towards the middle, and a month expired before it was completely separated. Although doubts were entertained of success in this case, it terminated in the most favourable manner. She chiefly lived upon milk-porridge.

Case 8. An old lady had, during nine months, an ulcer of the same nature upon the anterior part of the nose; the pus which it discharged irritated the surrounding parts, and caused great pain; she was treated in the same way, and completely cured at the end of three weeks. G.

Art. 10. *Observations on the Extirpation of the Testicle, followed by Tetanus, which continued a considerable Time after the Operation.* By M. MURSINA, Professor of Surgery at Berlin.

AN officer, aged 28 years, of a strong constitution, came to consult me on June 26, 1796, concerning a considerable tumour of the left testicle. I found, upon examination, a collection of water in the tunica vaginalis of the testicle; which was extremely hard and very painful. The tumour extended four inches below the inguinal ring, which made me believe that

that water was collected in the tunica vaginalis of the spermatic cord, as proved to be the case in the end.

My patient informed me that he had had this swelling nine years, and that it took place after a gonorrhœa. The inflammation of the testicle, and the venereal discharge, were cured in about three weeks, but the testicle remained somewhat swollen; as, however, it was not in the least painful, he took no notice of it for several months. At this time the swelling began sensibly to increase, and he consulted a surgeon, who applied different remedies with a view to dissipate it, but without the least success; and he at length assured him that he had an incurable hernia, and recommended him to wear a bandage. The tumour continued increasing every year, and the pains which it occasioned determined him at length to seek for some relief. Dr. Fritz and myself were consulted, and were decidedly of opinion that he should undergo an operation, to which he cheerfully consented. I operated on the 18th of June, in the presence of several physicians and surgeons.

After having made an incision through the skin, I laid open the whole extent of the tunica vaginalis of the cord, and of the testicle, from above downwards; near a pound and a half of water escaped; and I beheld with surprise the testicle in a very diseased state, very small and flattened, covered with spungy excrescences, and adhering on all sides to the tunica vaginalis. The spermatic cord adhered so firmly to the posterior part of the tunica vaginalis, which was very much thickened, that it appeared to be all one substance. I decided on tying this mass an inch below the ring; but although I made the ligature as tight as possible, I could not make it sufficiently so, and was under some apprehensions that, after dividing the parts, an hæmorrhage, or some other accident, would take place. The applying of the ligature gave him very little pain, which made me think the nerve was not much compressed. Having divided the cord, a slight hæmorrhage took place; I then dissected away the tunica vaginalis, and removed it with
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the testicle, without giving him much pain. The wound was filled with dry lint, and dressed in the ordinary way. I ordered him an antiphlogistic treatment, and recommended that he should not be disturbed by any thing, but kept extremely quiet. He passed a tolerably good night; in the morning a considerable hæmorrhage took place, which obliged me to remove the dressings, and apply a ligature on the bleeding vessel. The second night he was much agitated in consequence of pains about the wound, which extended to the kidney of the left side. I ordered him half a grain of opium every two hours. When he had taken four grains, the pains were completely subdued. The belly being rather tense, some emollient glysters were administered. He passed the third night very tranquilly; and the symptomatic fever had considerably diminished after a profuse perspiration. On the fifth day I removed the dressings; the wound discharged a kind of green serum; and the cord had evidently retracted towards the ring, more than is common in similar cases. I dressed the wound with dry lint. The sixth day the discharge appeared of a better consistence, and the lips of the wound were approaching each other. The seventh day he was perfectly free from fever, was in good spirits, and had entirely laid aside the use of internal medicines. The eighth day the ligature of the artery came away, and on the thirteenth day that of the cord. From this time the wound mended apace, discharged good pus, my patient had a good appetite, and began to walk about his room.

On the 8th of July, twenty days after the operation, the wound appeared to be nearly cured, and nothing amiss was apprehended; but my patient complained of great trouble in swallowing, of pains about his neck, and that it was with difficulty he moved his jaw, which he attributed to his having exposed himself too long in the open air at a window. I perceived that the muscles of his face were occasionally seized with spasmodic contractions, which symptoms made me very uneasy.

uneasy. I ordered him an opening glyster, directed warm poultices to be applied to his neck, and gave him internally half a grain of opium every three hours. During the night he sweated profusely, but it afforded him no ease; on the contrary, the neck was, if any thing, more stiff, deglutition more difficult, and the jaw more shut; symptoms which made me immediately conclude that he was seized with tetanus. After having taken the third powder, he was seized with vomiting, completely lost his appetite, and was very much depressed in spirits. I ordered him a gentle vomit, which brought off his stomach a quantity of water and phlegm; it also procured several stools, but the nervous symptoms continued. I then ordered him a grain of opium every two hours, and a blister to his neck. The blister produced a great evacuation; but he brought every powder off his stomach soon after he took them, so that they could not give him any ease. Dr. Fritz was again consulted, and recommended a combination of opium with magnesia frictions with mercurial ointment, about the anterior part of the neck, and a poultice to be applied after each friction. The wound was dressed as before, and some mercurial ointment rubbed about the ring, and a warm poultice was applied around the parts of generation, and renewed every hour. In spite of all these means, the tetanic affection was so increased in the morning, that the mouth was almost entirely shut, the neck stiff and inflexible, and deglutition more difficult. The opium had caused him to vomit several times, in consequence of which he was ordered to take two grains, with five of musk, every two hours. After the sixth dose he was seized with a violent vomiting, which continued all night, but did not at all weaken him. The tetanic symptoms continued increasing; and it was with the greatest difficulty that any thing could be introduced into his mouth. Spasms now became general all over his body; the head was drawn backwards, every limb was stiff and immoveable, whilst the muscles of his face ap-

peared palsied. The least movement of the body caused the most dreadful agonies and insupportable pains. Such was the violence of the spasms at night, that every one thought he was struggling with death. A large blister was ordered to be applied to the nape of the neck, and to each arm, and thirty drops of laudanum to be given every second hour. The laudanum did not produce any uneasiness, nor yet vomiting. During the night he had gentle perspirations, which gave him ease towards the morning; but, in other respects, there was no apparent alteration for the better. The dose of the laudanum was increased, and the frictions about the neck and jaws continued. The wound discharged copiously, was clean, did not give any pain, and its cure appeared not far distant. A little hardness was perceived about the ring, which was directed to be rubbed with mercurial ointment and opium, and to be covered afterwards with a poultice. The night of the 20th of July he had several hours sleep, perspired freely, and found himself somewhat relieved in the morning, and could open his jaws a little. The same treatment was continued until the 24th. He perspired the whole day and night, and encouraged it by an increase of clothing, under an idea that it gave him ease. His bowels being confined for four days, the abdomen was somewhat tense, and a glyster, composed of an infusion of camomile and oil, was given without effect; a second was therefore administered, composed of three parts water, and one part vinegar, which produced several evacuations, and continued to operate all the night, notwithstanding the use of the laudanum. In the morning the spasms were far more violent, and the patient appeared to be in the utmost agony. The pulse, nevertheless, was natural, which it had been during the whole illness. He perspired very little in the night, in consequence of the frequency of stools. In spite of all these symptoms, I still thought he would recover in consequence of his having so good a pulse. The 26th, he took every two hours forty drops of laudanum, which considerably allayed

allayed his pain, and he ate some gruel with sugar, and drank an infusion of camomile flowers. The morning following he had a profuse perspiration, and had had a very tranquil night. The perspirations continued till the 28th, when there was an evident amendment. The spasms, and other symptoms, had greatly diminished. The frictions and the poultice were now ordered to be laid aside, and the blisters to be healed. The use of the laudanum was continued. The discharge from the wound was encouraged, in order to dissipate the hardness at its superior part. During six days he had no evacuation by stool; he was therefore ordered to take half an ounce of Glauber salts every morning in a glass of water; which had the desired effect. On the 1st of August the spasms were so diminished that he could, without help, walk about his chamber; he opened his mouth a little, but he could not chew: he swallowed freely, and had a tolerable appetite, and partook of soups, vegetables, and wine. From this time he took only thirty drops of laudanum four times a day; and on the 4th of August, finding himself tolerably well, omitted it entirely. The jaws, however, were again closed, immoveable, and extremely painful; all the body became stiff, his pains returned, and he passed a very uneasy night. In the morning he had again recourse to his laudanum; the first dose gave him considerable relief; he slept all night, and perspired freely. In the morning he found himself as well as he was when he left off taking the laudanum. I advised him to continue the use of the drops, and to go every morning into a warm bath for half an hour. A few days afterwards he found himself so well as to omit taking his drops; spasms, however, returned, but were allayed, as before, by taking the laudanum. The 12th of August he went out for the first time, and was considerably benefited by it; he could chew and swallow meat, and any other food, with the greatest ease. His strength daily increased. The wound was entirely cicatrised, and no hardness could be felt. He appeared in perfect health,

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health, except his having a little uneasiness when he opened his mouth. The dose of the laudanum was daily diminished, and on the 20th of August he omitted it entirely, and left off going into the bath. The 1st of September, his health being quite re-established, he returned to his regiment. Some time after, he wrote me that he had not had the least return of his complaint, and enjoyed an uncommonly good state of health.

This case, I am of opinion, is of the utmost importance. It is extremely interesting and instructive: as the tetanus did not appear till the third week after the removal of the testicle, and as no uncommon circumstance took place during or after the operation, it cannot be supposed that the disease is to be attributed to it. The continuance of the spasms for six weeks must be considered as very extraordinary. From the attack of the tetanus, it gradually increased until the tenth day, at which period it was at its height; from that time it diminished for ten days, after which it gradually disappeared.

What then could have been the cause of the tetanic affection so long after the operation? Could it be attributed to the ligatures, which had all come away by the twelfth day, and the wound was clean and very little painful? It appears to me most probable that it was occasioned by the hardness of the parts above the wound, which compressed the cord at the time that the discharge was greatly diminished. The external applications reduced this hardness, whilst the narcotic remedies allayed the sensibility of the nerves. My practice has already furnished me with four cases of tetanus, the consequence of diseases of the testicle and spermatic cord. But I believe this case to be the only one which did not prove fatal.

'Tis much to be wished, for the instruction of physicians, and for the cause of humanity, that some skilful anatomist would expose the communication of the nerves of the parts of generation with those of the neck and face: I have reason to think that it is by means of the great sympathetic nerve, which anastomoses with the nerves of the face.

Art. 11. *On the bodily Conformation and mental Capacity of Negroes.* By Professor BLUMENBACH.

DURING a tour which I made through Switzerland, I saw in the picture-gallery at Pommersfeld four negro heads by Vandyk, two of which in particular had the lines of the face so regular, that the features seemed very little different from the European. At that time, as I had never had an opportunity of acquiring a proper knowledge respecting the form of the negro head and cranium, by studying nature, and as I remembered that Professor Camper, in a dissertation read in the Academy of Painting at Amsterdam, had mentioned that the greater part of the most eminent painters, and especially Rubens, Vandyk, and Jordaens, when they painted Moors, copied from Europeans whose faces had been blackened for that purpose, I ascribed the European look of the above negro heads to this common fault. Some months after, however, I had an opportunity of convincing myself that there are real negroes whose features correspond very nearly with those of the Europeans, and that the above heads in the gallery of Pommersfeld might be a true representation of nature.

Going to pay a visit at Yverdun to the two brothers Treytorrens, one of whom, the Chevalier, had been thirty-five years in the French service, particularly at St. Domingo; and the other, by means of the opportunities which his brother enjoyed, had a collection of natural curiosities that contained many rare articles. When I entered the court of their elegant habitation, which is situated on the road to Goumoens, I saw no person to shew me into the house, except a woman of an agreeable figure, who was standing with her back towards me. When she turned round to give me an answer, I was much surprised to find that she was a female negro, whose face perfectly corresponded with her figure, and fully justified the fidelity of likeness in Vandyk's negro heads, which I had seen at

Pommersfeld. All the features of her face, even the nose and lips, the latter of which were a little thick, though not so as to be disagreeable, had they been covered with a white skin, must have excited universal admiration. At the same time she was not only exceedingly lively, and possessed a sound understanding, but, as I afterwards learnt, was extremely well informed and expert in the obstetric art. The handsome, pretty negress of Yverdun is celebrated far and near as the best midwife in the Italian part of Switzerland. I was informed by her master, the Chevalier, who has in his service also a negro man as elegantly formed as a statue, that she was a creole from St. Domingo; that both her parents were natives of Congo, but not so black as the negroes of Senegal.

Since that period I have had an opportunity of seeing and conversing with many negroes, and have procured for my collection a great many anatomical preparations from negro bodies, which, together with what I have read in different voyages, tend more and more to convince me of the truth of the two following propositions:

1. That between one negro and another there is as much (if not more) difference in the colour, and particularly in the lineaments of the face, as between many real negroes and other varieties of the human species.

2. That the negroes, in regard to their mental faculties and capacity, are not inferior to the rest of the human race.

The three negro skulls, which I have now before me, afford, by the very striking gradation with which the lineaments pass from the one to the other, a very evident proof of the first proposition. One of them, which Mr. Michaelis was so good as to bring me from New York, and of which I have given an accurate description in another place, is distinguished by such a projecting upper jaw-bone, that, if the same peculiarity belonged to all negroes, one might be tempted to suppose that they had another first parent than

Adam.

Adam. On the other hand, the lineaments of the third have so little of the exotic form, and are so different from the first, that if I had not dissected the whole head perfectly entire, and just as it was when cut from the body, I should be in doubt whether I ought to consider it as having actually belonged to a real negro. The second holds a mean rank between both, and in its whole form has a great likeness to the head of the Abyssinian Abbas Gregorius, a good engraving of which by Heiss, in 1691, from a painting by Von Sand, I have now before me, and which not only proves in general the close affinity of the Abyssinians with the negroes, but approaches much nearer to the ugly negroes, to speak according to the European ideas of beauty, than the well-formed negress of Yverdun, or the handsome young negro whose head I dissected, as before mentioned, or than a thousand others whose features are little different from those of the Europeans. What I have here said is indeed nothing else than a confirmation of a truth long known, which has been already remarked by unprejudiced travellers, as will appear by the following quotations. Le Maire, in his *Voyage to Cape Verd, Senegal, and Gambia*, says: "Blackness excepted, there are female negroes as well made as our ladies in Europe." Leguat, in his well-known *Voyages*, tells us, that he found at Batavia several very pretty negresses, whose faces had the perfect European form. Adanson, in his *Account of Senegal*, speaking of the female negroes there, has the following passage: "The women are almost as tall as the men, and equally well made. Their skin is remarkably fine and soft, their eyes are black and open, the mouth and lips small, and the features are well proportioned. Some of them are perfect beauties. They are exceedingly lively, and have an easy, free air, that is highly agreeable." Ulloa, in his *No-ticias Americanas*, observes, that some of the negroes have thick projecting lips, a flat nose, eyes deeply sunk in the sockets, which in general are called *gertudos*, and wool instead
of

202 *Blumenbach on the Conformation, &c. of Negroes.* [April, of hair. He then adds: "Others, whose colour is equally black, have features perfectly like those of the whites, particularly in regard to the nose and the eyes, and smooth but thick hair."

The testimonies and examples which serve to prove the truth of the second proposition, respecting the mental faculties, natural talents and ingenuity of the negroes, are equally numerous and incontrovertible. Their astonishing memories, their great activity, and their acuteness in trade, particularly with gold-dust, against which the most experienced European merchant cannot be too much on his guard, are all circumstances so well known, that it is not necessary to enlarge on them. The great aptitude of the slaves for learning every kind of nice handicraft is equally well known; and the case is the same in regard to their musical talents, as we have instances of negroes playing the violin in so masterly a manner, that they have gained as much money as enabled them to purchase their liberty.

Of the poetical genius of the negroes, instances are known among both sexes. A female negro, who was a poetess, is mentioned by Haller; and a specimen of the Latin poetry of Francis Williams, a negro, may be found in the History of Jamaica. The interesting letters of Ignatius Sancho, a negro, are well known; and the two following instances will serve as a farther proof of the capacity and talents of our black brethren, in regard to literature and science. The Protestant clergyman J. J. Eliza Capitein was a negro; a man of considerable learning, and a great orator. I have in my possession an excellent print of him engraved by Tanjé, after P. Vandyk. Our worthy professor Hollman, when he was at Wittemberg, conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy on a negro who had shewn himself to advantage, not only as a writer, but as a teacher, and who afterwards came to Berlin as a counsellor of state to his Prussian Majesty. I have now before me two treatises written by him, one of which in particular

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ticular displays extensive and well-digested reading of the best physiological works of the time. Of the uncommon knowledge which many negroes have had in the practice of medicine, very favourable testimony has been given by Boerhaave and De Haen, who were certainly competent judges; and the sound skill and delicate expertness of the Yverdon accoucheuse are, as already said, celebrated throughout the whole neighbourhood.

To conclude, the Academy of Sciences at Paris had among the number of its correspondents M. Lislet, a negro in the Isle of France, who excelled in making accurate meteorological observations. On the other hand, whole provinces of Europe might, in my opinion, be named, from which it would be difficult to produce at present virtuosos, poets, philosophers, and correspondents of a learned academy.

Art. 12. *Transcript of an official Account of the last Illness and medical Treatment of General Washington.* By Doctors JAMES CRAIK and ELISHA C. DICK.

“SOME time in the night of Friday the 13th of December, having been exposed to a rain on the preceding day, General Washington was attacked with an inflammatory affection of the upper part of the windpipe, called in technical language *cynanche trachealis*. The disease commenced with a violent ague, accompanied with some pain in the upper and fore part of the throat, a sense of stricture in the same part, a cough, and a difficult rather than a painful deglutition, which were soon succeeded by fever and a quick and laborious respiration. The necessity of blood-letting suggesting itself to the General, he procured a bleeder in the neighbourhood, who took from his arm in the night twelve or fourteen ounces of blood: he would not by any means be prevailed on by the family to send for the attending physician till the following morning, who arrived at Mount Vernon at about 11 o'clock on Saturday.

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Discovering the case to be highly alarming, and foreseeing the fatal tendency of the disease, two consulting physicians were immediately sent for, who arrived one at half after three, the other at four o'clock in the afternoon: in the interim were employed two copious bleedings, a blister was applied to the part affected, two moderate doses of calomel were given, and an injection was administered, which operated on the lower intestines; but all without any perceptible advantage, the respiration becoming still more difficult and distressing.

“ Upon the arrival of the first of the consulting physicians, it was agreed, as there were yet no signs of accumulation in the bronchial vessels of the lungs, to try the result of another bleeding, when about thirty-two ounces of blood were drawn without the smallest apparent alleviation of the disease. Vapours of vinegar and water were frequently inhaled, ten grains of calomel were given, succeeded by repeated doses of emetic tartar, amounting in all to five or six grains, with no other effect than a copious discharge from the bowels. The powers of life seemed now manifestly yielding to the force of the disorder. Blisters were applied to the extremities, together with a cataplasm of bran and vinegar to the throat. Speaking, which was painful from the beginning, now became almost impracticable; respiration grew more and more contracted and imperfect, till half after eleven o'clock on Saturday night, retaining the full possession of his intellect, when he expired without a struggle.

“ He was fully impressed, at the beginning of his complaint, as well as through every succeeding stage of it, that its conclusion would be mortal; submitting to the several exertions made for his recovery rather as a duty, than from any expectation of their efficacy. He considered the operations of death upon his system as coeval with the disease; and several hours before his decease, after repeated efforts to be understood, succeeded in expressing a desire that he might be permitted to lie without interruption.

“ During

“ During the short period of his illness he economised his time in the arrangement of such few concerns as required his attention with the utmost serenity, and anticipated his approaching dissolution with every demonstration of that equanimity for which his whole life has been so uniformly and singularly conspicuous.

“ JAMES CRAIK, Attending Physician.

“ ELISHA C. DICK, Consulting Physician.”

Art. 13. *Observations on the Efficacy of Lizards in several Diseases, especially the Leprosy.* By M. REY DEMOURANDE of Cadiz, and M. DELARCHE of Madras.

IN the *Journal de Bourdeaux* is contained a letter from a French merchant at Cadiz, relating some particulars of a useful discovery for persons afflicted with the leprosy, cancer, venereal disease, and various kinds of ulcers. This remedy is a species of small lizard, eaten raw, called by the French *Anolis de terre*, or *Gobe-mouches*: they are eight or ten inches long, above half an inch in breadth, extremely vivacious, mottled with greenish yellow or grey spots, and covered with triangular scales.

This account states that “ every experiment which has been made, at Guatemala, Mexico, and Malaga, in the most desperate cases, has been attended with the greatest success. It appears, nevertheless, that although at Guatemala and Mexico only five or six *anolis* are necessary to cure a patient radically, yet a much greater number is requisite at Malaga to produce the same effect; for it was not till after a leper’s having swallowed thirty or forty at Malaga, in a like number of days, that his cure was completed. The effects which this remedy produces are constantly an extraordinary heat and burning, accompanied with a profuse sweat, and a salivation, thick, plentiful, and yellow. There have been patients who have neither salivated or perspired much from it, but in lieu thereof have

had plentiful evacuations either by the way of urine, which was excessively acrid and fetid, or from considerable excrements. In America a patient has never been prepared by bleeding, purging, or other course of medicine ; but at Malaga in some cases it has been thought expedient to bleed slightly previous to administering the remedy."

M. DELARCHE of Madras, in a letter to Mr. George Smith at Calcutta, gives the following statement of the effects of this remedy : " I have, in conformity with the accompanying receipt, attempted to administer this cure to a leper here, who laboured under this malady for twenty years, and who had lost the joints of his toes on both feet, and who was all over covered with pimples and ulcers, especially about the ears and nose, which discharged a fetid and viscous matter. I caused him to take one hundred and eighty of these lizards warm, and almost trembling, for three months without interruption. The fifteenth day of the remedy he began to salivate in great abundance, which he did for a month and a half, when it ceased of itself : during this time of his salivation, the pimples and ulcers, with which he was covered, dried up, and they fell off in scales, in such manner, that it would not seem that this man had ever been affected with the leprosy ; but ulcers which he had on his feet, though without toes, did not dry up, but continued to discharge matter, though in smaller degree than before. In other respects, this man, who for fifteen years had not slept two hours in the twenty-four, and even that a broken and disturbed sleep, began on the thirteenth day of this cure to sleep soundly, and sometimes for six hours without interruption, recovering his appetite, which he had before lost."

This letter concludes with a suggestion of M. Delarche, that he intends to employ the same remedy during the next month, when it would be very hot, and to administer it forty days without intermission ; expecting that the lizards would then contain more volatile salts than in the cold rainy season.

Art. 14. *Copy of an official Letter from Mr. Okey Belfour, Secretary to the "ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON," addressed to each of the Members of the late dissolved Company or Corporation.*

SIR,

I AM ordered by the Master and Governors of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, to inform you, that his Majesty has been graciously pleased, by his royal letters patent, bearing date at Westminster the 22d day of March last, to grant unto "all the members of the late Company or Corporation of Master, Governors, and Commonalty of the Art and Science of Surgeons of London, having been admitted and approved Surgeons within the rules of the said Company; and also unto all such persons who upon or since the dissolution of the said Corporation shall have obtained letters testimonial under a seal, purporting to be the seal of the said late dissolved Corporation, authorizing them to practise the art and science of surgery, that they from thenceforth for ever thereafter should be and remain, by virtue of the said letters patent, a body corporate and politic, by the name of 'The Royal College of Surgeons in London;' and to grant unto the said College so incorporated such rights, privileges, powers, and authorities, as are in the said letters patent particularly mentioned and set forth."

And that, among other things in the said letters patent, it is declared and provided, "That the members of the said late Corporation, and such other persons who since the dissolution thereof shall have obtained such letters testimonial as aforesaid, and who shall be willing to become and be members of the said College thereby established and incorporated, shall testify their acceptance of those letters patent, and their consent to become members of the same College, by signifying such their acceptance and consent in writing, to the Court of Assistants of the said College, within six months after the date of the said letters patent, who shall cause such acceptance to be en-

tered in certain books to be kept for that purpose at the hall or council-house of the said College; and that such and so many of the members of the said late Corporation, and of such persons as shall have obtained such letters testimonial as aforesaid, as shall not within the time aforesaid so signify their acceptance of the said letters patent, shall not be deemed or be members of the said College, unless they shall be duly admitted to be members thereof, by the said Court of Assistants, upon special application to be made to them for that purpose, unless it shall happen that any of such persons shall be beyond the seas at the date of such letters patent; in which case it shall be lawful for them to signify their acceptance thereof, in manner aforesaid, within six calendar months after they shall respectively return to this kingdom."

I am directed moreover to acquaint you, that copies of such letters patent are now ready at the College, for the inspection of the members of the late Corporation, who shall choose to peruse the same; and to request that those gentlemen who shall be willing to accept the said letters patent, and consent to become members of the College thereby incorporated, will be pleased to signify such their acceptance and consent, either by personally subscribing the same at the College, or by letters addressed to me there, as early within the time limited by the said letters patent for that purpose as they can make it convenient. I take the liberty to inform you, that attendance will be given daily, (Sundays excepted,) from ten o'clock until four; and to request that if you shall think proper to signify your acquiescence, you will be pleased to bring with you or to send the date of your *Diploma*.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

OKEY BELFOUR,

Secretary.

College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

April 16, 1800.

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Art. 15. *A new Method of curing and preventing the Plague, as practised at Smyrna.* Published by Count LEOPOLD VON BERCHTOLD.

COUNT Leopold Von Berchtold, knight of the military order of St. Stephen in Tuscany, has published at Vienna "*A Description of a new Method to cure and prevent the Plague,*" 281 pages, 8vo. This method, which was employed with the best success in the hospital of St. Anthony at Smyrna, consists in rubbing olive oil, with the strongest friction, into the whole body of the infected person. When the body is thus rubbed, the pores being opened imbibe the oil, and a profuse perspiration takes place, by which the poisonous infection is again thrown out. This operation must be performed the first day of the infection; and if only a weak perspiration ensues, it must be repeated till it is observed that every particle of infection is removed, and that the whole body of the patient is covered with a profuse sweat. Neither the patient's shirt nor bed-clothes must be changed till the perspiration has entirely ceased. The operation must be performed in a very close apartment; and at every season of the year there must be kept in it a fire-pan, over which sugar and juniper must be thrown from time to time, that the vapour which thence arises may promote the perspiration. The whole body of the patient, the eyes alone excepted, must in this manner be anointed, or rather rubbed over with the greatest care.

In the space of a year it was remarked that this operation, if not employed too late, was attended with the most wonderful effect. If it be delayed till the nervous system of the patient is attacked by the disease and the blood contaminated, after which a decomposition of it follows, the remedy is of no avail, and the patient must fall a victim. The operation, therefore, must be performed as soon as the smallest symptom of infection is remarked. In cases where perspiration was
slow

slow it was promoted by making the patient drink tea of elder-flowers without sugar, from which the happiest effects ensued.

To the above rules Count von Berchtold adds the following remarks by way of illustration: 1. The operation of rubbing in the oil must be performed by means of a sponge, and so speedily as not to last more than about three minutes. 2. The interval between the first and the second rubbing, if a second be necessary, must be determined by circumstances; as the second must not be performed till the first perspiration is over, and this will depend on the constitution of the patient. If any sweat remains upon the skin, it must be wiped off with a warm cloth before the second rubbing takes place. This strong friction with oil may be continued, for several days successively, until a favourable change is remarked in the disease; after which the rubbing may be performed in a more gentle manner. The quantity of oil requisite each time cannot be determined with accuracy; but in general, a pound may be sufficient. The purest and freshest oil is the best for this operation: it must not be hot, but only lukewarm. The breast and privities must be rubbed softly. In a cold climate, such as ours, those parts only into which the oil is rubbed must be exposed naked. The other parts must be covered with warm clothing. In this manner each part of the body must be rubbed with oil in succession, as quickly as possible, and be then instantly covered. If the patient has boils or buboes, they must be rubbed over gently with the oil till they can be brought to suppurate by means of emollient plasters. The persons who attend the patients to rub in the oil must take the precaution to rub themselves over in the like manner, before they engage in the operation. They must, if possible, avoid the breath of the patient, and not be under any apprehensions of catching the infection.

P. Luigi (who communicated the above particulars to the author) says: "In order to prevent the patients from losing
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their strength, I perscribed for them, during four or five days, soup made of vermicelli boiled in vinegar without salt. I gave them six or seven times a day a small spoonful of preserved sour cherries; preserved not with honey, but with sugar, as the former might have occasioned a diarrhœa. When convinced that the patients were getting better, I usually gave them the fifth morning a cup of good Mocha coffee, with a piece of toasted biscuit (*biscotto*) prepared with sugar, and I doubled the latter according to the strength and improvement of my patients.

“ At dinner and supper I allowed them for fifteen or twenty days nothing but rice or vermicelli boiled in water. After that period, I increased the quantity of bread in proportion to their appetite. In summer they had soup made of small pompions, and of herbs in winter, without any other addition than a little oil of almonds. I gave them also, according to their condition, either some oranges or a very ripe pear, boiled if in winter, and as much toasted bread as might enable them to digest their food easily, and leave them some appetite remaining. After the thirtieth or thirty-fifth day I allowed them morning and evening soup made from a fowl or neck of lamb; but I did not allow them flesh till after the fortieth day, lest it might occasion indigestion, which is very dangerous and often mortal in this disorder, and give rise to a new breaking out of pestilential boils. After the fortieth day I allowed them to eat boiled as well as roasted veal, and to drink moderately of wine; but I recommended to them to abstain from fish, salted provisions, pork, sour fruits, and, in general, every thing that either by quantity or quality might occasion indigestion.

“ This regimen has been the result of observations made in the course of twenty-seven years, during which I have attended patients attacked by the plague. It has been approved by the ablest physicians; and long experience has

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shewn that it is the best calculated to guard against the dangerous consequences of this horrid disease.

“ According to the accounts of Mr. Baldwin, among the thousands who died of the plague in Upper and Lower Egypt, there was not one person who had been employed in carrying oil; from which I concluded that oil must also be a preservative against it. I therefore put in practice this idea in regard to all those persons who were infected without knowing it, and I always found it infallible in its effects, as will appear from the following striking proofs:—In the year 1793, twenty-one Venetian sailors resided, day and night, for five days, with three persons ill of the plague, who afterwards died, and preserved themselves from infection by often rubbing with oil in the manner above directed. The same year three Armenian families, one consisting of thirteen, the second of eleven, and the third of nine persons, remained with some of their relations ill of the plague; and though they lay in the same apartment with them, according to their custom, and even in the same bed, and held the sick in their arms, none of them were attacked by the disease, because, in consequence of my advice, they daily rubbed their bodies over with oil. In the year 1794, a healthy poor woman attended thirteen persons ill of the plague; remained with them day and night, and yet was preserved from this horrid disease by anointing herself with oil. The same year two persons attacked by the plague remained several days in the same house with the numerous family of M. Natale Pezer, a Ragusan; but the family employed oil, as above mentioned, and were perfectly free from infection.²⁹

In a word, this wonderful preservative has so much reputation at Smyrna, that almost all the inhabitants, though perfectly sound, when the unfortunate infection makes its appearance, immediately secure themselves against it by repeated rubbing with oil.

When this operation is used as a preventive, it is not necessary

cessary that it should be performed in the same manner as on those infected. As it is not done for the purpose of promoting perspiration, but merely to prevent the infection from penetrating through the pores, it is not requisite that it should be performed with the same speed as when for curing the disorder; nor is it necessary to abstain from flesh and to use soups, but it will be proper to use only fowls or veal for ten or twelve days, boiled or roasted, without any addition or seasoning (*condimento*.) In the last place, it will be necessary to guard against fat and indigestible food, and such liquors as might put in motion or inflame the mass of the blood.

Careful and repeated rubbing of the whole body with oil prevents the breaking out of new boils, which often take place after the oil has been first used. The oil must be applied as soon as possible after the infection has been communicated: if omitted for four or five days, it will be of no effect. Diarrhœa in this disease is a symptom of death, and difficult to be cured; but the editor adds, in a note, that Father Luigi, by the use of oil, was enabled to recover four persons who had been already attacked by it. The abundant perspiration produced by the oil not only prevents new buboes from breaking out, but in a few days brings those which have appeared to suppuration, or makes them vanish entirely.

In the course of five years, during which friction with oil was employed in the hospital at Smyrna, of two hundred and fifty persons attacked by the plague the greater part were cured; and this would have been the case with the rest had they not neglected the operation, or had it not been employed too late after their nervous system had been weakened by the disease, so as to render them incurable. Immense numbers of people have been preserved from the effects of this malady by the above means; and of all those who have anointed themselves with oil, and rubbed it well into their bodies, not one has been attacked by the plague, even though they approached

persons already infected, provided they abstained from heavy and indigestible food.

The above account of P. Luigi is accompanied with several attestations of the efficacy of oil, both as a cure and a preventive, signed by B. Giraud the Imperial consul, and F. Merry the English consul, at Smyrna.

We are informed by Count von Berchtold, that this method of cure is at present employed with the best effects in Egypt, Constantinople, and Wallachia; and that great care has been taken to make it generally known both in the East and in those countries that carry on trade in the Levant.

Art. 16. Miscellaneous Intelligence, connected with Medicine, &c.

I. STUDENTS IN EDINBURGH.—The following Table, shewing the number of Students at the University of Edinburgh, for the last ten years of the eighteenth century, is extracted from its Records :

	Literature and Philosophy.	Divinity.	Law.	Phyfic.	Total.
1790-91,	426	128	129	510	1193
1791-92,	473	131	129	547	1280
1792-93,	453	133	142	581	1309
1793-94,	464	137	124	527	1252
1794-95,	470	146	154	525	1295
1795-96,	427	140	143	508	1218
1796-97,	496	130	156	577	1359
1797-98,	471	125	154	591	1341
1798-99,	461	125	124	592	1302
1799-1800,	446	127	97	634	1304
Total	4587	1322	1362	5592	12863

2. PHARMACY.—As the process of combining mercury with hog's lard is well known to be tedious, and to require a considerable time, the following method of shortening it has been announced

announced by Götting in his *Taschen-Buch für Scheidkünstler*. “This process,” says he, “can be speedily performed by the addition of a very small quantity of the flowers of sulphur. For a mixture of two ounces of hog’s lard and six drachms of quicksilver, it will be necessary to employ only six grains of the flowers of sulphur, and the process will be completed in a few minutes. I do not see,” adds M. Götting, “that so small a quantity of the flowers of sulphur can hurt the effect of the mixture, and am of opinion, that this prescription may be of considerable use in pharmacy.”

3. PATHOLOGY.—The physical class of the National Institute of Paris received, on the public sitting of Vendemaire 15, an 7, some interesting details on an extra-uterine pregnancy, and on urinary and arthritic concretions, by Mons. C. Saurerote, associate: likewise the case of a man, all of whose bones, except the teeth, acquired, in the space of a few years, an excessive size, without any of the muscles being affected.

4. CHEMISTRY.—Mons. Guyton, of Paris, has made some experiments on the nature of the succinic acid, and the products from its decomposition, from which he is inclined to assign to that fossil a vegetable origin; which agrees with the observations of mineralogists.

The same chemist has presented to the French National Institute, in the public sitting of Vendemaire 15, an 7, the products of his experiments on urinary concretions, which, as Scheele announced, manifest the presence of a peculiar acid formed in these concretions.

5. PHYSIOLOGY.—Professor Weideman, at Brunswick, transmitted lately to the Royal Academy of Sciences, a paper on the more exquisite sensibility of certain parts of animals, from which the following is an extract: “Many animals have a most exquisite sensibility at the tip of the muzzle, and particularly those which have these parts long. This delicate sensibility is principally produced by the end of the *nervus infraorbitalis*, in conjunction with some fibres of the optical

nerves, especially the middle branches, which run across the *masseter* in an oblique direction. The *nervus infraorbitalis* is strongest in those animals which have long muzzles, or muzzles covered with long whiskers. The muzzles of animals are moved in particular by three delicate muscles; and, besides these, several folds of the cutaneous muscle lie at the side of the snout, and the branches of the optic nerves proceed in particular to these muscles. I, however, found in a hedgehog some fibres of the optic nerve proceed to the root (*bulbus*) of a bristle. For the most part, however, these roots of the long whiskers are connected with the numerous and proportionably strong branches of the *nervus infraorbitalis*, which proceed to them in the form of a bundle, and in general transmit two fibres to the root of each bristle, which they embrace on both sides. This appearance I found exceedingly pretty in the head of a hare newly killed. In animals not provided with these whiskers, the nerve proceeds only to the glandulous skin of the nose, and which may be very distinctly observed in swine. The whiskers serve as the vehicle of a finer sensation, in order to forewarn animals in certain circumstances of the near approach of danger; for the slightest touching of the summits of these bristles excites in them a very strong sensation. Cats, and other animals which hunt for their prey in the night-time, extend the skin of the whiskers, which enables them to ascertain the nature, and even the hardness or softness, of the bodies which they approach."

6. VENTILATION.—Dr. Van Marum has discovered a very simple method, proved by repeated experiments, of preserving the air pure in large halls, theatres, hospitals, &c. The apparatus for this purpose is nothing but a common lamp, made according to Argand's construction, suspended from the roof of the hall, and kept burning under a funnel, the tube of which rises above the roof without, and is furnished with a ventilator. For his first experiment he filled his large
laboratory

laboratory with the smoke of oak shavings, In a few minutes after he lighted his lamp the whole smoke disappeared, and the air was perfectly purified.

7. COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.—C. Cuvier, in the course of his researches respecting the anatomy of white-blooded animals, which he intends soon to publish, has found that the leech will oblige him to change the general denomination. He observed in that animal red blood, not that which it sucks, and which would be contained in the intestinal canal, where it is immediately altered, but a real nourishing fluid contained in the vessels, and circulating there by means of an alternate movement of the systole and the diastole. These vessels form four principal trunks, two of which are lateral, the third dorsal, and the last ventral. The two former are of an order different from that of the two latter; but the author has not yet been able to determine which are the arterial and which the venal. The two lateral vessels proceed from one end of the body to the other, and are joined by branches which form a very beautiful tissue when injected. The ventral and dorsal vessels do not form a tissue of the like kind; they only throw out branches disposed alternately in an oblique direction, and subdivided in the usual manner. The second is placed exactly under the medullary cord of the ganglions, from which all the nerves proceed. It is impossible to open a leech without producing a great effusion of that blood. Enough, however, remains in the vessels to be distinguished. Its colour is almost the same as that of the arterial blood of the frog.

Art. 17. *Monthly Catalogue of new British Publications.*

1. **T**HE most cogent Reasons why astringent Injections, caustic Bougies, and violent Salivations, should be banished for ever from Practice; with the mildest Methods of safely treating every Species of venereal Infection, Strictures of the Urethra,

Urethra, &c. and correcting Mischiefs arising from caustic Bougies. By WILLIAM ROWLEY, M. D. &c. Octavo. 175 pages. London, Murray and Highley. 1800. Price 4s.

2. Parts I. and II. of a complete System of Zoology; or, History of animated Nature. Illustrated with upwards of 120 capital engravings. Octavo. London, Kearsley. Price 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* A few copies of this work are printed on large paper. The whole will be comprised in ten or twelve volumes. By GEORGE SHAW, M. D. F. R. S. &c. and Lecturer on Natural History at the Leverian Museum.

3. Considerations regarding pulmonary Consumptions. By THOMAS SUTTON, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Physicians, and Physician to the Forces. Octavo. London, Robinsons. Price 3*s.*

4. A brief History of epidemic and pestilential Diseases; with the principal Phenomena of the physical World which precede and accompany them, and Observations deduced from the Facts stated. By NOAH WEBSTER. Two volumes, octavo. London, Robinsons. Price 18*s.*

5. Phytologia; or, the Philosophy of Agriculture and Gardening: with the Theory of draining Morasses, and with an improved Construction of the Drill-plough. By ERASMUS DARWIN, M. D. F. R. S. Author of Zoonomia, and of the Botanic Garden. Quarto. 612 pages. London, Johnson. 1800. Price 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

6. A candid Inquiry into the Education, Qualifications, and Offices, of a Surgeon-Apothecary; the several Branches of the Profession being distinctly treated on, and suitable methodical Forms annexed; besides various other Topics connected with the principal Office are also subjoined. By Mr. JAMES LUCAS, late Surgeon of the Leeds Infirmary, &c. Duodecimo. 139 pages. London, Cadell and Davies. 1800. Price 5*s.*

7. The Clinical Guide; or, a concise View of the leading Facts on the History, Nature, and Treatment of the various Diseases that form the Subject of Midwifery, or attend the pregnant,

pregnant, parturient, and puerperal States: intended as a Memorandum Book for Practitioners. To which is added an Obstetrical Pharmacopœia. By WILLIAM NISBET, M.D. &c. Duodecimo. 348 pages. London, Johnson. 1806. Price 5s.

8. The Medical Pocket Book: containing a short but plain Account of the Symptoms, Causes, and Methods of Cure of the Diseases incident to the human Body; including such as require surgical Treatment: together with the Virtues and Doses of medicinal Compositions and Simples. Extracted from the best Authors, and digested into alphabetical Order. By JOHN ELIOT, M.D. Fifth edition, with additions and corrections. Duodecimo. 182 pages. London, Johnson. 1800.

9. A Lecture on the Preservation of Health. By T. GARNETT, M.D. Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry in the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Second edition. Duodecimo. 115 pages. London, Cadell and Davies. 1800. Price 4s.

10. An Essay on the Nature and Connexion of Heat, Electricity, and Light. By ALEXANDER ANSTRUTHER, Esq. of Madras, Barrister at Law. Octavo. 61 pages. London, Murray and Highley. 1800.

11. An Inquiry into the History, Nature, Causes, and different Modes of Treatment, hitherto pursued in the Cure of Scrophula, pulmonary Consumption, and Cancer. Second edition. To which is added an Appendix, containing a Letter to a celebrated Professor of Edinburgh. By WILLIAM NISBET, M.D. Octavo. 275 pages. London, Johnson. 1800.

12. The Ladies and Gentlemen's Botanical Pocket Book; adapted to Withering's Arrangement of British Plants; intended to facilitate and promote the Study of indigenous Botany. By WILLIAM MAVOR, L.L.D. Duodecimo. 185 pages. London, Vernor and Hood. 1800. Price 3s.

13. The Chemical Pocket Book; or, Memoranda Chemica: arranged in a Compendium of Chemistry, according to the

latest Discoveries, with Bergman's Table of single elective Attractions, as improved by Dr. G. Pearson: calculated, as well for the occasional Reference of the professional Student, as to supply others with a general Knowledge of Chemistry. By JAMES PARKINSON. Duodecimo. 229 pages. London, Symonds. 1800. Price 5s.

14. Institutions of the Practice of Physic. By J. BAPTIST BURSERIUS DE KANFELD. Translated from the Latin by WILLIAM CULLEN BROWN. Vol. I. (to be completed in five octavo volumes.) London, Robinsons. 1800. Price 8s.

15. Observations on the History and Cause of Asthma; and a Review of a "Practical Inquiry on disordered Respiration," in a Letter to Dr. Bree, the Author of that Work. By G. LIPSCOMB, Surgeon at Birmingham, &c. &c. Octavo. 108 pages. London, Johnson. 1800. Price 3s.

16. Elements of Botany, illustrated by Engravings. By JOHN HULL, M.D. &c. In two volumes. Octavo. 700 pages. London, Bickerstaff. 1800.

17. The Anatomy of Melancholy; what it is, with all the Kinds, Causes, Symptoms, Prognostics, and several Cures of it: in three Partitions; with their several Sections, Numbers, and Subscriptions, philosophically, medicinally, historically opened and cut up. By DEMOCRITUS JUNIOR. Ninth edition. Octavo. Two volumes. London, Vernor and Hood. Price 1l. 4s.

18. A Letter to Thomas Keate, Esq. Surgeon-general to the Army, one of the Surgeons to St. George's Hospital, &c. &c. &c.; with some general Remarks on the medical Profession: occasioned by the approaching Election of a Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, vacant by the Resignation of CHARLES HAWKINS, Esq. on the 9th of April, 1800. Octavo. 32 pages. London, Hurst. 1800. Price 1s.

* * * *The List of foreign Publications will be given next Month.*

THE
LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW
AND
MAGAZINE.

VOL. III. N° XV. MAY MDCCC.

ANALYSIS OF BOOKS.

ART. I. *An Essay, to elucidate the Nature, Origin, and Connexion of Scrophula and glandular Consumption; including a brief History of the Effects of Ilkley Spaw. With Observations on the medicinal Powers of the Digitalis; and Strictures on the Opinions of Dr. Lettson, relative to the Virtues of that Plant.* By GEORGE MOSSMAN, M.D. Octavo. 108 pages. JOHNSON, London. 1800. Price 2s. 6d.

THE author of this Essay professes to exhibit a brief history of the phenomena of scrophula and glandular consumption; to establish an analogy between the scrophulous and consumptive habit; to bring into view some of the most popular remedies which have been employed in the cure of both these diseases; to appreciate their several powers; and to lay before his readers an account of those medicines which he has found most effectual in alleviating the distressing symptoms connected with these complaints.

The opinions of Dr. Mossman upon the subject of scrophula are founded, he says, “exclusively upon the basis of observation and of a very enlarged experience;” he, therefore, “cannot doubt of their legitimacy.” Scrophula, we are informed, “occurs more frequently in manufacturing than in farming countries;” and this circumstance is ascribed “to the sedentary occupations which employ the inhabitants of commercial towns.” The author observes, “that the effect of this inactivity is a *relaxation of the muscular fibre*; which, with the co-operation of gross, indigestible aliment, forms the basis of glandular consumption.” The morbid state of the glands is referred “to this existing cause;” and, if this view of the disorder be correct, Dr. M. concludes, “that debility and obstruction stand to each other in the ratio of cause and effect, and are explanatory of every future form of the disease.”

The author considers the popular opinion, of scrophula being hereditary, as totally unfounded; but he admits, “that the laxity of the muscular fibre, attached to the parent, is transmitted to the child; and that there is good reason to suppose, that scrophula will assail a habit thus predisposed.” He very readily grants, “that the children of scrophulous parents are born with a predisposition” to that disease; but thinks “*that* predisposition is the effect of a natural laxity of muscular fibre;” and therefore, although an “hereditary predisposition” may exist, there is no proof of the disease itself being hereditary.

Dr. M. remarks, that “the progress of scrophula is marked by the presence of small, hard, moveable tumors in various parts of the body; but chiefly about the neck, under the ears and chin. These tumors are insensible, unless they are roughly pressed; they first affect the lymphatic, and at a more advanced stage they seize the salivary glands; but they may, and they often do, remain in the same state for months and even years. From the operation however, of accidental causes, a tumor begins to increase in size, and soon afterwards

wards becomes a little painful; it gradually grows softer: after a certain time a remote fluctuation of matter may be perceived, and by a very tedious process it makes its approach to suppuration. This stage is characterized by the integuments assuming a florid or purplish colour, which by degrees becomes paler, till from the most prominent point, a thin ichor be poured out from an almost invisible opening: this discharge continues to lessen the tumor; and when the orifice is more enlarged, we very frequently meet with a thick cheesy substance; upon the removal of which the tumor contracts, and becomes level with the surface of the skin. The ulcer thus formed, whether deep or superficial, shews little tendency to cicatrization; and the quality of the matter discharged, depends much upon the powers which have been employed for its melioration.

“ The process described continues to be repeated in other glands, and in various parts of the body; the disease [*disease*] however in its progress sometimes seizes the joints, and exhibits appearances of a very unfavourable nature. When ulcers of great magnitude are seated in the larger joints the discharge becomes profuse, the system of ligaments is destroyed, and the most fortunate termination is a partial loss of motion; but it more frequently happens that not only the muscular, but also the osseous parts are corroded; and if amputation of the morbid limb be not recurred to, a symptomatic fever, with all its wasting evacuations, assails the unhappy sufferer, and eventually closes the scene.

“ If the mysentery [*mesentery*] be the seat of scrophula, the same general process to suppuration, with symptoms a little diversified, takes place. In this disease there is often a perceptible hardness, and inequality of the abdomen, accompanied by a dull obtuse pain upon pressure. The same phænomena of symptomatic fever are exhibited here as in the other diversities of scrophula; and from the contiguity of the parts affected a sympathetic stimulus is communicated to the intestinal canal,

which either induces a tendency to, or very frequently excites a continued diarrhæa. I have known mistakes of much seriousness committed by ascribing to the presence of worms confirmed cases of mysenteric [*mesenteric*] consumption."

The author points out what he conceives to be the discriminating marks of an affection of the mesentery: "I believe it very generally happens, when the mysentery is in a morbid state, that we meet with glandular obstruction in other parts of the body, or with symptoms strongly indicative of a scrophulous habit. I have observed an enlargement of the abdomen, both in mysenteric affections and in cases of worms; but in the former disease I have observed an inequality of the surface of the abdomen perceptible, and very often painful, to the touch. In worm cases the appetite is sometimes diminished, but more frequently it is voraciously encreased; in mysenteric affections the appetite, though not uniform, does not exhibit any very striking variation. In the latter disease I have observed a regular, well-marked, debilitating symptomatic fever; in the former disease, if fever make its approach, it assumes the type of a fever arising from cold, denudation, or any cause productive of irritability. In both diseases there is much irregularity in the state of the bowels; but where there is a morbid affection of the mysentery, the tendency to diarrhæa is more constant than from the presence of worms: the nature and colour of the evacuations too are widely different; in mysenteric cases, from the aliment mixing with the natural mucus, and from the lacteal vessels being rendered incapable of absorbing this combination, much of the nutritious part of the food is passed off, and for the most part exhibits fæces of a pale, clay colour; the alvine discharge in worm cases is very variable in point of colour, and is very generally slimy. In cases of a morbid affection of the mysentery, the urine is almost constantly high coloured; in worm cases it is often limpid, and frequently approaches to white. Dr. Home has observed, that a swelling of the alæ narium and upper
lip

lip is a certain diagnostic of worms; and I am of opinion, that if those appearances be combined with some of the other prominent symptoms, they will infallibly prove the presence of this disease. In mysenteric consumption there is an undescribable anguish apparent in the countenance, in cases of worms the visage is heavy and dull, and there is present that general listlessness of frame, and a want of that sprightliness of face so natural to children."

The history of scrophula is finished by a suggestion, that, unless its progress be corrected at an early period of life, there will be great danger of its attacking the lungs, and inducing PULMONARY CONSUMPTION. "This disease," says the author, "very often makes its approach imperceptibly; and it frequently makes very serious advances indeed, before the patient himself is at all suspicious of his situation. When consumption arises from tubercles (which I think it does in a great majority of cases), it is characterized by a short, tickling, hollow cough; by a slight dyspnœa; and by an indistinct, feeble, quick pulse: the two last symptoms are much increased by bodily exertion, more especially towards the evening. The patient now experiences a heat and dryness of the palms of the hands; and he is assailed by an uneasiness in one side, very frequently the left. He generally sleeps upon the diseased side, for if he attempt to lie on the other, he feels an unaccountable restlessness, accompanied by a teizing cough, and sometimes by a sense of suffocation. In bed his respiration is particularly laborious; his sleep is disturbed, and he is tormented by disagreeable dreams; he is not refreshed by his slumbers, but awakes under the influence of a general lassitude, with a profuse moisture upon his forehead, neck, and chest. That languor which he awoke with in the morning, he continues to experience more or less during the day; he complains of faintness, head-ach, and occasional sickness at stomach; he is repeatedly seized with slight rigors, succeeded by flushings of heat, which exhibit a constant change

change of the colour of his face; his appetite still remains not very materially impaired, though a relaxation of the muscular fibre, and a considerable degree of emaciation, are now very perceptible: at the approach of noon and night he complains most of thirst, and at those periods his cough is much exasperated: this stage of the disease is often little attended to, and frequently passes over before any practitioner of medicine is consulted: the patient now experiences an aggravation of all the symptoms already enumerated, his cough is more vexatious, and is attended by an expectoration of white froth, which, in the morning, assumes the consistence of tough phlegm, of a salt, and sometimes sweet taste; the velocity of the circulation continues; the strokes of the artery are more strong and full, and succeed each other in such a manner, as to give the medical attendant a clear persuasion, that the blood is transmitted through the lungs with much difficulty: the patient is now more frequently assailed by recurring rigors and the succeeding phenomena of fever; nor does he obtain any compleat solution of it, either by sweating or any other evacuation: his thirst is increased: his difficulty of breathing is now a very distressing symptom, and is generally accompanied by an acute pain in the thorax, or in one side; if he now make an attempt to lie down on the sound side, the sense of suffocation which he experiences, and the incessant cough which immediately ensues, preclude the possibility of his enjoying one moment's repose: his appetite is much diminished, and his bowels exhibit a tendency to constipation: the waste of muscular fibre becomes every day more apparent, and he approaches rapidly to the last stage of the disease. It is remarkable, however, that neither at this, nor at any subsequent period of pulmonary consumption, does he entertain any terrors about the issue of the disease; he seldom complains but of his cough; he is supported by the idea, that if it could be removed he should be well; and this cheering hope remains with him almost to the last hours of his existence.

ence. In addition to the symptoms embraced by the foregoing description, he now labours under a purulent expectoration, occasionally mixed with blood; he experiences a regular exacerbation of the symptomatic fever towards twelve at noon, and the same hour at midnight; he feels, however, a considerable remission about four or five o'clock in the afternoon, and a more compleat solution of the fever, by a partially profuse perspiration, about the same hours in the morning; his loss of strength and muscle are every day more apparent; his difficulty of breathing, however, is not much encreased, nor are the pains in his thorax, or side, so frequent or so violent as in the preceding stages of the disease; a considerable portion of the matter which he expectorates generally sinks in water, though this circumstance is by no means an infallible proof of the presence of pus, since pus and mucus exhibit phænomena according as they are freed from or connected with air; he has now less thirst, and his appetite is not much diminished; he is, twice a day, under the influence of an exacerbation of the symptomatic fever, and he is as often under the operation of an effort to accomplish a solution of the fever by the skin or bowels; he is consumed by the wasting discharges of perspiration and diarrhæa, alternating with each other; his tongue becomes more clean, with streaks of white furr interspersed upon it; his thirst is still less oppressive; the white part of his eyes assumes a beautiful, bright, pearly appearance, and there is a very considerable dilatation of the pupils; this last symptom is a very certain characteristic of the presence of pulmonary consumption. At a preceding period of the disease, and more especially at this, he exhibits a circumscribed blush upon one, and sometimes upon both cheeks, particularly after taking food, or after a little repose; his expectoration increases in quantity, and becomes extremely offensive; from the shrinking of his muscles there appears a greater fullness of the vascular system; his nails assume a crooked form and bend inwards, and his hairs begin to fall off: he complains

plaints much of an uneasiness, sometimes of a violent pain in his legs and in the soles of his feet; his ancles become œdematous; his wasting discharges continue to increase; painful aphthæ of the tongue and mouth, with a slight eruption upon the lips, assail the sufferer about a week or ten days previous to the final catastrophe, which is wound up by an increase of fever, and by the supervention of delirium."

Having given this general history of the more obvious phenomena of pulmonary consumption, the author endeavours "to establish an analogy between the scrophulous and consumptive habit;" after which he proceeds to the treatment of these complaints, and first of all lays down some directions relative to the means of obviating the predisposing cause of scrophula. His advice on this head is confined to early and free exercise in the open air, with daily immersion in tepid, temperate, or cold water.

The several stages of scrophula, Dr. M. thinks, are referable either to *obstruction—inflammation—or suppuration*. In the first stage he has had recourse to calomel, antimony, digitalis, hemlock, opium, colts-foot, steel, muriated barytes, nitrous acid, burnt-sponge, &c.; but none of these means have proved strikingly beneficial on the morbid glands. Immersion has been more useful than any other single remedy, "especially if persisted in for a number of weeks or months:" and in this place he takes occasion to commend the powers of *Ilkley Spaw*.

"ILKLEY SPAW has maintained its credit almost since the commencement of the present century, on account of the virtues which it has displayed in the cure of scrophula. By what means it first excited public attention I know not; but without the sanction of any medical writer, it has uniformly forced itself upon the notice of all descriptions of people in its vicinity, who labour under the influence of scrophula. They resort to it with the fullest conviction of its curative powers, and they are seldom disappointed of its beneficial

neficial effects. A respectable clergyman, long a resident at Ilkley, informed me, ‘ that he never knew a scrophulous patient give the waters of that place a fair trial, without either experiencing benefit approximating to a cure, or being materially relieved.’

“ The village of Ilkley is situated upon the high road from York to Lancaster, upon the river Wharfe. The spring, which has given celebrity to the place, issues from the side of a hill about half a mile from the village, and flows not less than thirty gallons in the minute. It was first inclosed by the late M. Middleton, Esqr. and it has since been accommodated with baths, dressing-rooms, &c. by the present lord of the manor. The prospect from the spring has ever excited the admiration of strangers ; it exhibits the various scenery of a fine meandering river, an interspersion of woods, beautiful villas, and magnificent rocks.

“ The reputation of Ilkley-well, in the cure of a complaint for which I was daily consulted, and which admitted of so little relief by other means, necessarily attracted my attention. I visited the spring, and I examined it by all the tests used in the analysis of water ; the result of my experiments convinced me, that it contained the least extraneous matter of any water hitherto described ; and that its salutary qualities reside exclusively in the remarkable coldness, softness, and purity of the element. It has been very generally visited, and very often analysed by medical men and others ; but being previously assured of its great efficacy, and having begun their experiments under the impression that this efficacy sprung from the circumstance of the water being strongly impregnated with some vegetable or mineral substance ; and not being able to detect any such impregnation, they have uniformly been discouraged, and have abandoned the pursuit. The water when poured into a glass, is remarkably clear, bright, and sparkling ; and from its extreme purity and softness, it is perhaps calculated to enter those

minute vessels of the animal frame which are impervious to other fluids. A very large quantity of the water may be drank, even immediately before dinner, without seeming to distend the stomach, and without, in the smallest degree, impairing the appetite. I have myself made this experiment, without perceiving any effect, except its almost immediate and powerful operation as a diuretic.

“ I could here adduce a very great number of cases in proof of its extraordinary efficacy in the cure of scrophula and symptoms connected with it; but as this detail would exceed the limits which I have prescribed to this Essay, I shall only observe, that, in addition to its efficient powers in obviating the phænomena attached to the first and last stages of scrophula, it is certainly well calculated to operate as a preventive in habits predisposed to this disease.”

The local remedies approved by Dr. M. for the discussion of superficial glandular tumours, are the emplastrum lithargyri cum hydrargyro—the empl. saponis—empl. ammoniaci cum hydrargyro—leeches—spouting of water—volatile spirits—and very gentle shocks of electricity.

In the inflammatory stage of scrophula, the author has derived assistance from a combination of calomel, digitalis, tartarized antimony, and opium, in various proportions: his external means are, the aqua ammoniæ acetatæ, or aqua lithargyri acetati, diluted, and used as a lotion; but the remedies employed in the first stage ought now to be discontinued, except the application of leeches.

Should this plan fail in preventing the inflammation from advancing towards the suppurative and ulcerative process, we are directed not to hasten this stage by the use of suppurative applications. When the suppuration, however, is completed, we are advised to evacuate the matter gradually by a small oblique incision; and afterwards to compress the tumour by adhesive plaster or tight rollers. Dr. M. has seen the most complete success arise from a seton passed through the parietes

of the scrophulous abscess. As soon as the matter has been discharged, the author recommends the patient to be kept “strictly under the influence of digitalis;” and likewise to give the cinchona, or the muriate of barytes, and to enjoin the use of the temperate or cold bath.

For the scrophulous ulcer no particular dressing is here recommended. If the bones be carious, they must be removed. If the patient be affected with ophthalmia, apply the nitrated mercurial ointment and electricity. These are the means insisted on for the ordinary cases of scrophula. The author then proceeds to the treatment of pulmonary consumption, which he conceives to be generally caused by tubercles in the lungs.

“To alleviate the urgency of symptoms which generally prevail in this and in some of the subsequent stages of pulmonary disease, recourse has been had to general bleeding. I know that this practice will afford temporary relief; but I am well persuaded, from an ample experience, that its uniform tendency is, to fix the disease, and to render it incurable. The use of repeated bleedings, followed up by a regimen strictly antiphlogistic, have hitherto constituted the sum of the most approved practice, in the commencement of pulmonary consumption. I need only appeal to universal experience for a proof of its inutility. Local bleeding is less exceptionable, and may, I think, in some cases, be employed with advantage.

“In this, and indeed in almost every stage of the disease, I have administered hemlock without any apparent benefit. I have also prescribed a variety of mucilaginous emollients, with a view to diminish general irritability, and to appease the cough; and by their means I have occasionally obtained an alleviation of symptoms; but this temporary benefit has been more than counter-balanced by their materially affecting the powers of digestion.

“In short, I have tried almost every remedy recommended

by authors in this stage of the disease, and they have all disappointed me. Many of them are, I think, manifestly injurious.

“ How the absorption of cantharides acts upon a tubercle in the lungs, I know not; but I am satisfied that the repeated application of blisters to the thorax, is a very valuable remedy in the commencement of pulmonary diseases; and I prefer a repetition of the blisters to the painful method of keeping them open, and discharging for a length of time. At this period, and I think, in every stage of consumption, the patients food should be easy of digestion, and at the same time nutritious. Eggs, broth, and milk variously prepared, are of this description, and should, with animal food, constitute the principal part of his diet. A cordial regimen I think highly improper; it never imparts vigour to the muscular fibre; and its tendency, at this period, is to increase the velocity of the circulating mass, to confirm irremediably the obstructive stage of the tubercle, and to impel it to inflammation.

“ During this and every subsequent stage of consumption, I have administered anodynes combined with mucilages and squills; and by their exhibition I have alleviated some of the most distressing symptoms. They are of no further use.

“ Riding on horseback has been strongly recommended as a salutary exercise in pulmonary consumption. As this practice was sanctioned by names of the very first celebrity, I continued, for several years, to recommend it to every consumptive patient who consulted me. I have advised riding in all stages of the disease, and at those times of the day which were the most remote from the expected exacerbation of fever. Its effects have uniformly been injurious.”

Dr. M advises “ the abstraction of fluids from a consumptive patient, or at least a strict limitation in point of quantity.” He condemns the frequent exhibition of emetics, as tending to weaken the stomach and enfeeble the whole body. Swinging and sea voyages are regarded as useless, and all

strong

strong exercises deemed hurtful. “It is unquestionably true, that the phthisical patients who have been sent to Madeira, Portugal, France, Italy, &c. have almost all perished. I am supported in this assertion by the concurrent testimony of foreign practitioners.” The author very properly bears his testimony to the collateral advantages arising from muriated barytes and nitrous acid; but we are surprised to find him affirming, that “*they certainly DO NOT increase the velocity of the circulation.*” We venture to assert, on our own experience, that these medicines have a direct tendency to produce an inflammatory diathesis.

“In all cases of violent dyspnœa, or of extreme irritability in the chest, I have recommended the vapour of vitriolic æther variously impregnated, and with singular success. I have, along with the æther, employed several of the balsams, cicuta, &c. &c. but I am not sure that the quality of the application is at all improved by the addition of any of those substances. I have lately prescribed digitalis, to be inhaled with the vapour of æther; but my experience is yet too narrow to say any thing decisive relative to its effects. I am strongly inclined to believe, however, that the local application of digitalis, to ulcerated lungs, will lead to important consequences. It is a rich subject of inquiry.”

After giving a fair trial to every popular remedy, and perceiving no decided relief from any of them, the author had recourse to the digitalis. He thus recites his opinions and his practice:

“I entered upon its use in the treatment of pulmonary consumption, without entertaining a hope that it could afford relief. I was a complete sceptic relative to its efficacy; and the issue of the first cases in which I prescribed it, confirmed my unbelief;—my patients perished; nor did they ever appear to be under its influence: this last circumstance must have arisen either from the bad quality of the plant, or from my inexperience in its exhibition. The unsuccessful cases,
however,

however, might be said to be lost, previous to the use of the digitalis. I determined, therefore, to administer it in the primary stages of pulmonary consumption; and the result of my experience has much exceeded any effect which I could possibly expect from the exhibition of this or any other remedy.

“ The plant itself is so well known that a particular description of it may be deemed unnecessary. It is biennial, and grows very common in gravelly and uncultivated soils; that which is gathered from barren and elevated situations, I believe to be of the best quality; for it is certainly true, that all plants, more especially odorous ones, possess the greatest powers, if they be collected from situations much exposed to the influence of the sun. If it be true, that the power of the digitalis is resident in a volatile, narcotic quality, it will be found that that plant which possesses the strongest flavour is the most to be depended upon. The time of collecting it, the method of preparing it for use, and the mode of preserving it, are, in my opinion, of the last importance; inasmuch as an inattention to those circumstances will render it impossible for the prescriber to ascertain the proper dose to be administered. As I have already observed, I conceive the proper dose of a medicine to be just that quantity which will produce the desired effect; now, the proper dose of digitalis is what will, by gradually bringing the system under its influence, retard the motion of the heart, so as to reduce the pulsations to a given number, and to accomplish this object without inducing any of its deleterious or injurious effects. This medium dose could be very generally ascertained with much precision, were medical men to collect the plant in a healthy state, at one part of the year; and were they to be equally careful in powdering and in preserving it. I do certainly believe that the digitalis possesses its natural qualities in a greater or less degree whenever or wherever it be collected; but it is a matter of much difficulty to prescribe it with judgment,
if

if it be collected indiscriminately, at all times of the year: for in some cases a practitioner would be disappointed by not being able to place his patient sufficiently under its influence; and in other instances he might probably throw it in in such quantity as to endanger life. That the plant is a hardy one, I have no doubt; and I believe that it may be exhibited with effect at whatever period it be collected; for a very ingenious surgeon, Mr. Waiblinger of Fulneck, in the vicinity of this place, assured me, that he had gone into his field in the midst of winter, and collected what he thought fit for his purpose; and that, though gathered at this season of the year and given in doses comparatively small, yet it exhibited all the symptoms expected from the plant in its most healthy state. This happened so long ago as 1789. But that every practitioner may be giving the same medicine, or at least a medicine of similar powers, I would propose that the leaves should be collected from vigorous plants in their flowering state, some time from the beginning of August to the latter end of September. By this arrangement much inconvenience may be remedied, and fewer disappointments will occur in the use of the plant.

“ The method of drying the digitalis is, perhaps, a matter of much importance; for if its properties reside in a volatile principle attached to it, it is presumable, I think, that the application of a strong heat will dissipate part of its power. The plant may be suspended in a warm airy kitchen; and when it is completely dried, it may be rubbed between the hands, and the leaves may thus be detached from the stalks and ribs: it may then be powdered for use; and if any of the fibrous parts remain, they may be separated during the process of pulverization. A quantity which may be thought sufficient for the consumption of one year only should be collected; for it is very certain that it loses much of its power by being long kept: I am of opinion, however, that the exhibition of the plant in this way (even upon the supposition

tion that much of its power be dissipated) is managed with more accuracy than by collecting it indiscriminately at all periods of the year. The digitalis, collected and prepared as I have suggested, may be preserved either in the form of powder, closely confined; or in the form of a saturated tincture. If one ounce of the plant in powder be added to five ounces of proof spirit, the combination will form a tincture fully saturated, which must also be closely confined from the air. This tincture retains its qualities longer than the powder, and may be employed when the latter is expended, or when it loses the colour and flavour primarily attached to it. The dose of both the powder and the tincture must be left to the judgment of the prescriber: I think it advisable, however, to begin with small doses, and to increase the quantity till I know that my patient is under its influence. I have uniformly observed that the digitalis succeeds best when it is thrown into the system so gradually as not to exhibit any of its effects previous to the termination of the first, or the commencement of the second week of its administration. If the plant be of good quality, and if it be judiciously given, its powers will be conspicuous before the conclusion of the second week; and it is a matter of the last importance, at this period, to mark its operation with the most vigilant care.

“ I have remarked, that when a patient comes under the influence of the digitalis, he complains of a little heaviness and drowsiness, with a slight affection of vision, and a sensation of a want or faintness about the region of the stomach. Those phenomena do very generally precede its action on the heart; its power over the motion of the heart is, however, eventually exerted; and the diminution of the pulse is entirely at the will of the prescriber; for he may, and with safety too, reduce the strokes of the artery from 120 to 70, 60, 50, or even 40 in a minute; and if he manage the exhibition of the digitalis skilfully, he may keep the pulse at any of those degrees for any unlimited period of time.

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“ If the number of pulsations be reduced below 70, or 60, in a minute, they will frequently be subject to intermissions; and sometimes a violent vomiting will ensue; this last symptom has often occurred, when the distant abode of my patients prevented me from judging with precision, when they came under the influence of the plant. The vomiting, however, after continuing a few hours, sometimes a few days, generally subsides without the exhibition of any antidote; and the operation, I have observed, is almost constantly attended with effects manifestly beneficial to the patient. I have never had occasion to employ any remedy to obviate the violence of vomiting. For this purpose, however, brandy, opium, the vegetable and mineral acids, and blisters applied to the region of the stomach, have been recommended.

“ The virtue of the digitalis (which certainly approximates to a specific in the primary stages of consumption) is, in my opinion, to be ascribed exclusively to its dominion over the heart. If the transmission of the blood through the lungs be performed with only half its morbid velocity, I expect that the secretion from that organ will be proportionably lessened; that the dyspnœa and cough will consequently be diminished; and that whatever be the cause of the symptomatic fever, it will be effectually subdued, and of course, the debilitating discharges attached to it, will be rendered unnecessary.

“ I am persuaded that the digitalis possesses in itself a power directly sedative, and that the application of this power, by lessening the irritability of the muscular fibre, will explain its salutary operation in the cure of pulmonary consumption.

“ It has been observed that collections of water disappeared during the exhibition of the digitalis, and without any extraordinary flow of urine. I apprehend that an explanation of this fact will be attended with considerable difficulty; for I believe it to be questionable, if not incorrect reasoning, to contend that there exists a power which can at the same time diminish the action of one system of vessels and increase that

of another. The operation of the digitalis very certainly lessens the secretion by the exhalent arteries; but whether it affect the system of absorbents otherwise than by intercepting the further supply of fluid, and leaving them at liberty to take up what is already poured out, demands, I think, a doubt. The absorbent vessels, and their range of action, are perhaps not sufficiently well understood; but we know that their powers are sometimes extended to the absorption of even the osseous parts of the system.

“ It has been asserted, that the power of the digitalis in reducing vascular action is referrible to the sickness which it induces, and that the same thing may be done by the exhibition of any nauseating substance; but to this I reply, that all nauseating substances, at the same time that they diminish the velocity of the pulse, they are found to lessen the firmness of the stroke, and their action is soon over; now a reduction of the pulse in point of frequency is generally accomplished by the digitalis, without inducing sickness; without diminishing the firmness of the arterial stroke; and its effects are uniform and permanent. The digitalis possesses a certain peculiar quality which is capable of retarding the velocity of the circulating mass, without impairing the vigour of the system. The action of opium in some respects resembles the action of the digitalis. Opium very constantly lessens the number of the arterial strokes, and rather increases their firmness; but its effects are not so permanent as those of the digitalis; and if they were, we could not keep a patient for any length of time under the influence of opium, without occasioning very injurious consequences. If a patient labour under a profuse expectoration, and if in this case opium be repeatedly administered, we shall find the lungs immediately overwhelmed with a load, which is with much difficulty discharged. But if, under circumstances precisely similar, the system be charged with the digitalis, the secretion from the lungs, and the symptoms connected with this secretion, are

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almost

almost all completely obviated; and the small portion of pus or mucus which continues to be secreted is expectorated with the greatest facility.

“ I have thus briefly noticed the opinions which I have formed relative to the action of the digitalis. I have to observe, however, that whether those opinions be well founded or not, certain it is, the digitalis, if judiciously administered, will be found a very valuable remedy indeed, in all cases of pulmonary consumption.”

We could extract other passages from the subsequent part of Dr. Mossman's Essay with pleasure and advantage, but our limits will not permit. In concluding this account, however, we are under the necessity of expressing our regret that the author has been so totally inattentive to the rules of orthography.

X.

ART. II. *Tracts on the Nature of Animals and Vegetables.*

By LAZARO SPALLANZANI, R. P. U. P. Octavo. 394 pages, with six engravings. CREECH, Edinburgh. 1799. Price 7s.

THE celebrity of Signor Spallanzani has been so long established, that many of our readers will probably anticipate the pleasure to be derived from perusing the present work in an English dress.

These Tracts contain Observations and Experiments upon the Animalcula of Infusions;—upon the seminal Vermiculi of Man and other Animals, with an Examination of the celebrated Theory of organic Molecules;—upon Animals and Vegetables confined in stagnant Air; upon some singular Animals, which may be killed and revived;—upon the Origin of Plantulæ of Mould;—and, upon the Reproduction of the Head of the Land-snail.

In several particulars this translation differs from the original; and especially, the treatise upon animalcula has been

considerably abridged. The degrees of heat are likewise reduced from Reaumur's to Fahrenheit's thermometer. Upon the whole, we conceive, the naturalist will be abundantly repaid for the time he may bestow in reading the singular and amusing facts here set before him.

We select a few interesting passages, as a specimen of the translation, from the section which treats on

The seminal vermiculi of man and other animals.

“ The seminal fluid of man, and of some animals, examined by Lewenhoeck, appeared to him full of animalcula ; which he named vermes, from their resemblance in figure and motion. But they were soon considered by philosophers, as a phantom of the imagination, an illusion of the senses, or some imperfection of the microscope. They thought there was nothing real in what the Dutch philosopher had described.

“ By others he was judged with less severity. They agreed that there was a number of corpuscula in the seminal fluid ; but they denied they were animals, and thought them unorganized particles, which, from their subtility, were raised and evaporated sooner than the rest : thus, forming a fermentation and motion in the fluid, that created the idea of animation.

“ The celebrated Linnæus adopts this opinion nearly. He thinks the vermiculi are only inert molecules, swimming like oil in the seminal fluid, moving and darting in various directions, as they are agitated or heated by the temperature of the fluid.

“ Messieurs Needham and Buffon published their sentiments upon the question, which they have elevated to the subject of the animation of those microscopic beings ; and it would appear that their theories are directly opposite. The first thinks they originate from the vegetative power acting upon the seminal fluid, after it comes from the animal ; by which it is necessitated to vegetate, to expand, to put itself in motion, and to change into beings not yet animated, but simply vital.

“ M. De Buffon, enamoured of his organic molecules, thinks
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he finds them in the vermiculi ; and, from a long detail of experiments and observations, endeavours to establish his theory upon the ruins of that of Lewenhoeck.

“ Who could imagine that so many disputes, and such opposition of sentiment, would arise upon a matter of fact ? I confess, this has singularly surprised me ; and I have often thought that the diversity of opinion arose less from essential difficulties than from the fault of observers who had not the proper methods of examination ; from a prejudice in favour of some theory, making their senses the cause of their errors ; or, finally, from want of sufficient practice in the difficult art of accurate observation. As I treated of a subject analogous to the history of spermatic vermiculi, I wished to study them, to discover, if possible, where the truth was. I applied to the inquiry with all the attention, care, and reflection, in my power ; and for the greater certainty, endeavoured, first, to forget all that had been written upon the subject, acting as if I had been the original author of it. In controverted facts, I have always found this the safest method to avoid confounding the opinions of the philosopher with the responses of nature. After reaping a fruitful harvest of facts, I presumed to think that I knew what had been seen by others. I then compared their results with my own, and allowed myself to give an opinion with respectful deference. I doubt not but my sincerity will be believed, when it is known that I have taken no side of the question, and that it was absolutely indifferent to me, whether my discoveries were corresponding, or contradictory to those of others.

“ The seminal fluids I used, were that of man and different quadrupeds. I did not neglect to examine that of the smallest animals. I employed the seminal fluid of man as recent as possible ; that is, taking it from dead bodies while yet warm. I took the semen of animals the moment they were killed. I have frequently examined the seminal fluid of animals alive, and several times used that ejected during copulation.

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“ The seminal fluid taken from a dead human body resembles coagulated milk. When examined with a magnifier, the cause of its opacity is not discovered; but when it begins to dissolve, and assumes the colour of soapy water, if examined with a magnifier of small power, the irregular parts seem to be in an indistinct slow agitation: I observed, that those parts were moved by corpuscula, infinitely more minute, of a globular figure; each had a sort of filament, or short appendage. It is evident that the more gross part of the seminal fluid is put in motion by globular corpuscula; for there is no motion, unless they are in agitation. The corpuscula have two motions, one oscillatory, from right to left, and from left to right, curving the appendage from one side to another. The other is progressive: the vermiculus transports itself by oscillation. When we consider this mode of moving, we would imagine them blind. They strike against every obstacle, and, when amidst a number, make a thousand contortions to escape; at last taking that way where they feel least resistance. Thus they are in continual motion. In twenty-three minutes, the motions of oscillation and progression had diminished, and in an hour and a half it had lessened so much, that a very small number of corpuscula preserved any appearance of motion. In general the progressive motion ceases before the oscillatory, so that at last the corpuscle merely bends from right to left, and reciprocally. They continue fixed to the same spot until the oscillatory motion insensibly dies away.

“ After all motion is gone, the corpuscles remain entire in the fluid, and then they are better seen than even when the liquid is diluted with water. Each corpuscle is not properly globular but elliptic, and the appendage is not only longer than it appears, but the breadth is not equal throughout like a thread, but increasing as it approaches the body. It was impossible to discern where the filament terminated, being so much immersed in the fluid. When the corpuscula have
ceased

ceased to move, the appendage remains extended in a straight line, or with little deviation.

“ When the seminal fluid has been kept for a day, or indeed for less, in a watch-glass, it becomes transparent, although preserving its original viscosity. It deposits a sediment of whitish matter, resembling a mass of slender rags.

“ The seminal fluid having dissolved later than that of the preceding observation, I put some particles in rain water. The shapeless corpuscula swimming in the liquid, with the double motion of oscillation and progression, became motionless when touched by the rain water. Other waters mixed with the seminal fluid produced the same effect as that of dunghills, rivers, snow, ice, and even distilled water. I have found nothing but saliva preserve the motion of the corpuscula. It may be used indifferently, either from the mouth or when it is cold. I have often employed it to continue my observations. The ovular corpuscula I then found; and the phenomena exhibited, were precisely the same with those of the preceding observation.

“ When the liquid drop dries up, all the corpuscula without exception become motionless. And as it dries first at the circumference, that is, where it is thinner, and advances to the centre, the corpuscula first becoming motionless, are those at the edge, then those of the interior part, and lastly those in the centre of the drop. If a drop of saliva, or of the seminal fluid, is put upon that which is dried, the corpuscula do not recover motion, though the humidity continues long. The corpuscula of this observation became sooner motionless. In fourteen minutes they were languid; in three quarters of an hour there was complete repose. At last they had no progressive motion, although a remnant of the oscillatory continued; so that when the two motions ceased, most of the appendages remained extended in a straight line.

“ The seminal fluid taken from a dead human body was chiefly

chiefly coagulated. It was then peopled by the corpuscula I have described. In one of the preceding observations it appeared to me, that there were some larger corpuscula among the rest. I apprehended I was deceived; that this difference of size might arise from minute portions of the semen attached to the corpuscula: but I was convinced this could not be the case, because, when the seminal fluid was completely dissolved, the corpuscula retained the same size, although I passed them through another fluid. The motion ceased two hours after the semen was taken from the body.

“ The seminal fluid of man was like milk ready to coagulate. I took a small portion for examination. It presented a singular phenomenon. I saw four corpuscula attached by the filaments to a clot, which dissolved. They seemed to me to make every effort to disengage themselves from this incumbrance, by many motions and contortions; but they remained fixed. The filament sometimes described a curve, and was sometimes extended in a straight line. Amidst the struggles, one extricated itself from the clot, and began to swim in the fluid. Like the rest, it had the motions of oscillation and progression. The other three corpuscula did the same, one after another; and by degrees detached themselves entirely from the clot.

“ The novelty of this phenomenon made me desirous to take other molecules of semen not completely dissolved, to see if I could find other ovular corpuscula in the same situations. In some the corpuscula were free, and I saw them swim in the place of the clot dissolved; others I saw, attached by the appendage to that part of the clot yet entire, and endeavouring to disengage themselves by all the contortions I have just mentioned. I saw, that, when entirely detached from the spermatic molecules, they liberated themselves, and swam about in the fluid. I found something more. One of the clots was partly in filaments; many ovular corpuscula were seen about the filaments, which, notwithstanding their endeavours,

endeavours, were unable to set themselves free. In this semen the corpuscula lived two hours and a half.

“ When I took the seminal fluid from a dead human body, most part seemed dissolved. Many of the corpuscula surpassed the common size. In this experiment, my object was to search, with all possible care, for what I had seen in the course of the preceding observations. I saw all I had observed, excepting the phenomenon of the corpuscula attached to clots, which could not happen here, as the semen was perfectly coagulated. Some of the corpuscula continued to move for three hours.

“ In the examination of this seminal fluid, which was at first a little thick, I discovered by chance a method of seeing, with more convenience and precision, the figure of the corpuscula and their appendages. I put a clot of semen upon a talc slider; as the thickness prevented my seeing it with accuracy, I swept it with a small pencil, but the talc was not so clean, that some little portion of the spermatic matter did not remain. I cannot tell what induced me to examine the talc again with the microscope; but I there found what I had no idea of discovering. I saw scores of the corpuscula very distinct, although motionless, because they were dry. They were separate, without any mixture with the spermatic matter: the appendage of some was straight, of others curved, and nearly of the same length in all; that is, about six times the length of the body, the extremity not much pointed, but thicker as it approached the body; and it was distinctly seen, that the corpuscle made but one whole with the appendage, which, in the thickest part, is thrice as small as the body, and even more. Each corpuscle is somewhat like the red globules of blood, but smaller. The appendage, as the corpuscle, seemed to be composed of a homogeneous matter.

“ After this fortunate event, I frequently wiped the talc whereon I had put some drops of semen, and I constantly saw the corpuscula with the same precision. I may add, they

remained dry upon the talc, without any alteration of figure, for several days. In this semen they became motionless in two hours and a half.

“ I wished to proceed rigorously with my researches, as it appeared the results I had hitherto obtained were insufficient to bestow the character of real animals upon the ovular corpuscula. We have not effectually had that congress of characteristic marks to decide their animality. Doubtless, we may name them moving corpuscula, or possessing a spontaneous motion; for the testimony of our senses will not permit us to suppose this double motion of oscillation and progression the effect of any external cause. The sequel of the work will make us more perfectly acquainted with their nature.

“ These observations have likewise demonstrated another truth, that the duration of motion, after the corpuscula come from the body of the animal, depends, in a certain degree, upon the temperature of the atmosphere. At 36° above 0, all motion was gone in three quarters of an hour; at 47° , in an hour and a half; at 49° , in two hours; at 51° , in two hours and a half; at 54° , in three hours; and at 59° , only after the elapse of three hours and a half.

“ From this I remarked, that the motion of the corpuscula continued longer as the temperature of the atmosphere increased. Examining the human semen in the warmer months, to learn whether the phenomena I had already witnessed might be then observed, I had the pleasure of seeing them again in the same manner. I constantly observed, that as the heat was greater, the duration of motion increased; so that in the middle of summer, when the thermometer had ascended to 81° , our corpuscula continued to move for seven and three quarters, and even for eight hours.

“ While this heat continued, I varied the experiments. I exposed a portion of the seminal fluid, taken from a man, to the air of an apartment where the thermometer stood at

82°;

82°; I put another portion in a cave, where the heat was 65°; and a third portion in an icehouse, where the thermometer stood at 42°. Here the corpuscula continued to move half an hour; in the cave, four hours; and in the apartment, eight hours. Corpuscula abounded in each drop of the fluid, and, although the drop was small, it included an innumerable multitude.”

After having examined the seminal fluid in man, this ingenious and accurate philosopher examined that of various other animals. He observed, that the semen of horses did not exhibit the corpuscula so numerous and active as in human semen, and that the latter were rather smaller in size than the former. Respecting the movements of many aquatic animals, which transport themselves by the contortions of their members, the Abbé remarks “that the anterior part of the body is pushed forward, and moves progressively by the contortions and oscillations of the posterior part. I paid the most strict attention to see whether the anterior part of the corpuscle was pushed forward by the oscillations of the appendage. When the motion is very rapid, it is impossible to observe it distinctly, from the quickness of the mutual vibrations of the body and appendage; but when it relaxes, we perceive with facility the mode by which they advance. And it is the same with that of the aquatic animals I have just mentioned. When the oscillation of the appendage ceases, the progressive motion of the body ceases; but the body begins to move when the oscillations of the appendage recommence. I made this important observation, not only upon the corpuscula in the seminal fluid of the horse, but upon those in the semen of all the animals that I shall afterwards name. The motion in this observation did not continue above an hour and a half.

“The seminal fluid of the bull contains moving corpuscula in numbers surpassing those in the seminal fluid of man. The appendage is longer than that of the human seminal

corpuscula, and the body also seems a little larger. The whole length to the extremity of the appendage is distinctly seen, though deeply immersed in the seminal matter, which is perfectly fluid, and of a whitish colour. The progressive motion is performed while the appendage oscillates. This motion is different from that of the human corpuscula; it is much more rapid, and suspended for short intervals; which is not to be seen in the corpuscula of human semen.

“ Beside the phenomena already described, I also remarked, 1. That the corpuscula not only swam horizontally, but rose and sunk in the semen, as fishes do in water: 2. When the semen dried, the motion of the corpuscula was irrecoverably gone: 3. In times of equal heat, the motion was quicker than of those of man, or the horse: 4. The mixture of every kind of water, and even of saliva, with this semen, was fatal to the corpuscula.”

Other experiments on the semen of the dog, the ram, the water-newt, and of frogs, are related; all of which afforded striking and novel results, which must be highly interesting to an inquisitive mind. The moving corpuscula found by Spallanzani in the semen of those animals are precisely the beings which Lewenhoeck named worms, or spermatic animals: and, indeed, their spontaneous motions, &c. are characteristics sufficiently decisive of their animality. V.

ART. III. Dr. DUNCAN's *Annals of Medicine for 1799. Vol. IV.*

(Continued from p. 147.)

10. *Sequel of the Case of an extra-uterine Fœtus, partly voided through an Abscess in the Abdomen.* By Mr. John Major Wilson, Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital.

IN this case we are presented with the anatomical description of the parts concerned in the formation of an extra-uterine
fœtus,

foetus, formerly related by the author. The whole narrative is well drawn up, and pertinent observations are made upon the subject.

11. *Account of a singular Case of Obstruction to the Excretion of Urine.* By Mr. D. M. Dickson, Surgeon to his Majesty's Navy.

“ May 20, 1796. John Williams, a Danish seaman, aged about 22, had been affected six months ago with the venereal disease; of which he was apparently cured by a medical gentleman at Havre de Grace. But soon after he perceived an approaching phymosis, which, in a very few days, became complete; accompanied by much inflammation and hard swelling of the whole prepuce, and accretion of its external edges to each other; totally obstructing the discharge of urine, when attempted in the usual way, the fluid being allowed to pass no farther than between the prepuce and glans; from which it regurgitated into the bladder as soon as the pressure of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles was removed.

“ To free himself from the pain necessarily arising from this circumstance, he has, ever since, been in the custom of breaking a passage through the skin, with a piece of pointed wood, or such other similar instrument as offered by chance at the moment. But as this aperture closed immediately afterwards, he had the same operation to perform every time he made water; which he did as seldom as possible, to avoid the dreadful pain attending it.

“ He at length made application, a second time, to a surgeon at Havre de Grace. But, not being able to raise a sum equal to the fee required, he was obliged to go to sea in this melancholy condition; flattered with the hope of being able to pay, after his return, the ten dollars demanded for his cure.

“ The privateer, on board of which he had embarked, was soon after captured; and he was thrown into an English prison.

prison, where he lay for some time, and at length entered into our service, and came on board the Phaëton : here he remained a week without making his distress known.

“ His urethra and prepuce appeared much distended with urine ; the latter being swoln to the size of a small goose-egg. And yet, when a small trocar and canula were thrust through the spot where he was accustomed to make his opening, (which was where the aperture naturally should have been,) there did not more than ℥viij of urine discharge itself.

“ After the evacuation of the urine, he complained of violent acute pain about the neck of the penis and glans, which could not be accounted for by attributing it to the wound made on entering the trocar : and it was observed, that the prepuce did not detumefy, as might have been expected from letting off the water ; but, on the contrary, remained twice its natural size ; and felt, upon examination, as if stuffed with a sandy gravel, or other gritty matter. On endeavouring to distinguish this accurately, the pain was aggravated exceedingly, and he begged to be let alone for some time. Having had a bit of bougie introduced, and fastened in the opening made by the trocar, and having taken about two grains of opium, he was put to bed.

“ May 21. Had a tolerable easy night ; but this morning the pain around the glans is very severe, and much increased on motion of the parts. The opening is again nearly closed up, he having taken out the bougie to make water. And, on examining the prepuce, the same sensation (of small gritty bodies rubbing against each other) occurred, as before. And there seemed no room to doubt of the presence of calculi.”

An operation, being determined on as absolutely necessary, was performed by Mr. Lynd, when a numerous collection of round and oval calculi, with a quantity of sand impacted in the under part of the prepuce, on each side of the frænum, was detected.

“ The

“ The number of calculi amounted to sixteen; some of them as big as a garden pea, of a white colour, remarkably hard and firm; but without any spiculæ on the surface; though the sand was extremely sharp, and probably composed of those spiculæ, worn off by long-continued attrition. The quantity of sand could not be ascertained.

“ As soon as these were removed, he felt considerable relief from the pain; and the wound being dressed with slips of adhesive plaster, to keep the internal and external laminæ of the prepuce even with each other, and light soft dressing over, he remained easy until night.

“ At bed-time he had an opiate, and every part of the dressings, except the adhesive straps, were removed, as it was found that he had lost the faculty of retaining his urine, which flowed from him stillatim, and wetted the dressings. A small silver canula was inserted into the mouth of the urethra, to conduct the urine over the dressings, without wetting them for the future.

“ May 22. This morning the dressings were removed, having been much deranged in the night, during which he complained of a prickling pain as at first, though not so severe. And, on looking within the prepuce, which was considerably swelled, there appeared a small roundish calculus, at the point of the glans, which was easily removed with a probe, being quite disengaged from the urethra, through which it must have passed since the last dressings were applied.

“ The pain was instantly relieved; and, the parts being fomented with warm water, new dressings were applied, and the canula reinserted.

“ The internal surface of the prepuce has considerably changed its appearance from that of yesterday, being much more smooth, and covered with a number of white slough-looking spots, but still remaining remarkably hard and scirrhous.

“ Headach,

“ Headach, nausea, anorexia, and a bitter taste in his mouth (symptoms with which he was formerly afflicted in consequence of the absorption of the urine,) are much abated within these two days.

“ It is only necessary to add farther, that, by the 1st of June, the wound was healed; and that by the use of bark and steel, continued for a short time, with a few doses of tinct. cantharid. the retentive power was completely restored to the bladder and its sphincter; and the unfortunate patient, after a series of suffering and hardships peculiarly distressing, was at length restored to the blessings of ease and perfect health.”

12. *Observations on the Benefit derived from the Application of cold Water in Cases of Scarlatina Cynanche.* By Dr. G. Mossman, Physician, Bradford.

This is another case in addition to the many adduced by Dr. Currie, of the benefit of water in fevers. The author nevertheless differs from him in the mode of application, and recommends cold vinegar, or vinegar and water, to be applied over the body by means of a sponge.

13. *The History of a Case in which a severe Wound of the Tongue, threatening Locked-jaw, terminated successfully.* By Dr. G. D. Yeats, Physician in Bedford.

“ Major C——, æt. 38, when walking on foot in this town, on the 15th of October last, in a dark night, fell, by some accident, and received a severe blow on his mouth, by which his tongue was slit for about half an inch, longitudinally, with a laceration at the bottom of the slit, laterally.

“ I was called to him soon after he received the injury. A considerable hæmorrhage had taken place, with a very great flow of saliva. The hæmorrhage had by this time abated; but the salivation still continued.

“ There was a doubt whether the wound would unite without being stitched. I was very apprehensive of tetanus, and was therefore decidedly against the operation.

“ I prescribed an opiate draught, with a bolus of calomel and rhubarb, to be taken next morning.

“ October 6. I saw him again this morning. He complains of stiffness about his jaws, with soreness across his sides and loins, and paucity of urine. The tongue looks dark-coloured, and shews no disposition to heal.—Appl. statim *visicatorium nuchæ*.

“ R Decoct. cinchonæ ʒj, Tinct. Huxhami ʒj, Pulv. cinchonæ ʒj, Tinct. opii g^r iij, Spt. æth. nitros. g^{ss} xx. M. Ft^r haust. 4tâ quâque hora sumend.

“ I saw him again in the afternoon. Tongue looks much better; and the sides of the wound adhere at the bottom. Cont. med.

“ As I thought it dangerous to stitch the tongue, lest the irritation should induce tetanus, and as no adhesive plaster would bring together the edges of the wound, on account of the moisture of the tongue, I directed an handkerchief to be so applied round the crown of the head and jaw, as that the mouth might not be opened very wide, if he should at any time unguardedly speak, which he was strictly enjoined to avoid.

“ He was desired to take spoon meat; and, when he wished to express his sentiments, to write them on a slate, which he kept by him for the purpose.

“ He was ordered to take wine; as, in general, he had lived tolerably freely.

“ Under this mode of treatment, in four days, the wound united perfectly through its whole length; and he has now no impediment in his speech. Of this he was, not without reason, very apprehensive, lest he should not be able to give the word of command distinctly.

“ He is now at Northampton, where he went to join his regiment.

“ Had the wound been stitched, and the antiphlogistic plan adopted, is it not probable that very disagreeable consequences would have followed? To say no worse, would not a loss of part

of the tongue have taken place? If such had been the means pursued, we think tetanus would have supervened, with all its frightful consequences. Did not the stiffness about the throat and jaws, and the soreness of the sides, indicate an approach to this dreadful malady? It appears to me that this was the case; for as soon as the calomel had operated, and a reasonable time allowed for the bark and opium to produce their effects, a favourable change immediately took place; and from being under severe apprehensions of locked-jaw, I felt a placid contentment of a speedy recovery."

14. *Medical Histories.* By Dr. John Haxby, Physician, Pontefract. 1. *A Case of Epilepsy, terminating favourably, under the Use of Musk and Opium.* 2. *A Case in which the Testicles had not descended into the Scrotum, till the Patient had attained his fourth Year.* 3. *A Case of Enlargement of one of the spinal Vertebrae, gradually disappearing on an Enlargement of the Trochanter major of the right Thigh, which was succeeded by Hydrocephalus, terminating fatally.*

These cases are well related. Miss B. of a delicate constitution, when about seven years of age, was attacked with symptoms of epilepsy, for which she had taken a great variety of medicines without any advantage. At length Dr. Haxby was consulted. "On the 24th of February," says he, "I visited my patient for the first time. She had just undergone a succession of epileptic paroxysms, and was then in a state of coma. Her pulse was comparatively full and slow; her countenance bloated and discoloured; respiration deep and stertorous.

"The evanescence of these apoplectic symptoms was marked by a gradual animation of countenance, which yet expressed much internal uneasiness, attended by jactitation of the limbs, and frequent involuntary moaning; which soon terminated in weeping. The arteries insensibly regained their usual celerity of action; and, after a few minutes, every vestige of the complaint disappeared, except a degree of languor and

and lassitude, which, from the quick succession and violence of the paroxysms, obliged her to be almost constantly in a recumbent posture.

“ At the intervals most distant from the epileptic accessions the pulse ranged from 110 to 130 strokes in a minute, which were small and feeble. The appetite was bad. There was no thirst. The state of the alvine and vesical excretions could not well be ascertained, as they generally came away during a paroxysm; but, from the previous condition of these discharges, there was no reason to apprehend any considerable deviation from the natural state.

“ I made repeated inquiries, in order to ascertain the cause of these convulsions; but all of them proving unsatisfactory, and it being requisite that something should be attempted, I was obliged to lay down some general principle on which to ground my future practice.

“ Reasoning, therefore, from the known causes of epilepsy, as dentition, worms, the *nisus exanthematicus*, acrid substances irritating the alimentary canal, &c. &c.; all of which act by inducing pain or excessive nervous irritation, whether this be from excess or defect of action in the painful part; I had not much hesitation in giving my assent to Dr. Darwin's general position, ‘ That convulsions are voluntary efforts to relieve pain.’ Accordingly, having prescribed an emetic in the evening, and a purgative bolus the morning following, I ordered the subsequent draught to be given a little before the accession of the next paroxysm:

“ R Mosci sinensis opt. gr x, Sacchari puri gr xv, simul tritis; adde Confect. aromat. gr xv, Aquæ fontanæ ʒx, Ætheris vitriolici gr l, Tinct. opii gr^{ss} xx. M.

“ Si his remediis differatur insultus, mox expectandus, vel aliquo modo mansueverit, repetatur haustus intervallo ij vel iij horarum, omissâ tamen tincturâ opii; quin et iteretur tertiâ vel quartâ quâque horâ, additis haustui, cubitum iturâ assumendo, tinctura opii guttis xv.

“ The laudanum was added to the night-draught, in order to obviate the tendency of the post-meridian paroxysms to recur at their usual period.

“ March 1. From some misapprehension of the meaning of my prescription, the draughts were not given regularly, nor always with the proper quantity of opium in them; yet, notwithstanding these experiments, the fits were thought to be somewhat moderated, and the subsequent stupor less oppressive. Encouraged by this unexpected ray of hope, I determined to follow up the advantage I had gained, and to administer the opium and musk to the full extent, till some sensible effect was produced. I therefore increased the quantities of each, after the following formula:

“ R Moschi sinensis opt. gr xv, Opii puri gr jss, Confect. aromat. ʒj. Fʒ bolus. Capiat instante paroxysmo, et repetatur 2dâ vel 3tiâ quâque horâ cum opii gr ʒ solum; nisi accedente paroxysmo, quando repetendus est cum plenâ dosi opii, nisi prius supervenerit stupor vel delirium.—And, as the patient had not had a motion since the 27th, I ordered a cathartic powder to be given in a little jelly or treacle, and repeated any morning as occasion required.

“ R Calomelanos præparati gr jv, Pulv. rhabarbari gr x, Zingiberis pulv. gr ij. M.

“ 3d. The effects of these medicines in diminishing the number and violence of the paroxysms were obviously decisive. The pulse was now fuller than usual, and not quite so rapid; and she complained somewhat of thirst.”

By persisting in this plan, and prescribing remedies to the variety of circumstances, the young lady's health was perfectly re-established; though she did not possess that quickness of intellect enjoyed by her cotemporaries, and which, though rather to be desired than expected, time alone can restore.

Case 2.—This case shews the necessity of careful examination in all the affections of the viscera, especially in children.

Case 3.—“ W. S. aged nine years, had for some time laboured

laboured under immobility of the lower extremities; with constipation of the bowels, and a degree of dysuria, owing to an enlargement of one of the spinal vertebræ.

“Caustics were applied to each side of the prominence, and kept open some time; during which there was a slight alleviation of his complaint. But, as the amendment was not in proportion to his expectation, nor equivalent to the sacrifice of his ease, from the irritation of the caustics, about two months after their insertion, he allowed the ulcers to heal.

“Very soon after this, the trochanter major of the right thigh-bone began to be enlarged, and in proportion as it increased in bulk the diseased spinal vertebra was diminished, till at last there was no inequality in the appearance of the spine.

“The trochanter continued to be enlarged for about a month, though great pains were taken to reduce the swelling by friction with spirituous embrocations, which was at length effected; and now he could walk with perfect ease as far as could be expected from his reduced strength; but he soon began to complain of pain in his head, which became more and more violent, so that when I saw him (which was about a week after it had come on) he appeared to have every symptom of hydrocephalus internus, except strabismus, which supervened in a day or two, when he died.

“Was the hydrocephalus in this case at all connected, as cause and effect, with the previous enlargement and subsequent diminution of the trochanter major and spinal vertebra? Would the timely reinsertion of the caustics have prevented hydrocephalus?”

15. *History of a Case of retropulsed Gonorrhœa, succeeded by a severe Affection of the Eyes, terminating favourably.* By Robert Robertson, M.D. Surgeon of the Fifth Fencible Regiment.

16. *Examples of the good Effects from the Use of the Hydrargyrus Muriatus Mitis, in Cases of the Cynanche Trachealis, or Croup.* By Mr. James Anderson, sen. Surgeon in Edinburgh.

We shall select one of these cases to illustrate the author's practice.

“ Upon the 19th of July 1796, I was called to see the son of W. M. aged eighteen months. He had the general symptoms of fever, with that mode of breathing which peculiarly characterizes the croup. He was ordered an emetic immediately, and, after its operation, to be put into the warm bath.

“ On the 20th, the symptoms of croup increasing, he had a laxative, was blistered upon the throat, and leeches were applied to the part as nearly as the blister would admit. He was again ordered into the warm bath.

“ On the 21st, although the blister had risen well, and the leeches bled freely, the croup was increased to an alarming degree. Throughout this day, the agonies of my patient were such as every practitioner may have witnessed in the last stage of this awful disease. An eminent physician in this city was desired to visit the child along with me, who, seeing the inefficacy of the ordinary remedies, advised that calomel should be tried, as having been attended with much success in America. Accordingly, three grains were given this evening, in a tea-spoonful of the following:

“ R Syrup. aceti ʒj, Extract. papaver. alb. gʒ j. M. cap. cochlear. parv. 2dâ quâq. hor.

“ On the morning of the 22d there was an appearance of abatement of the disease, and the calomel was repeated in the same quantity. During the day the sound of respiration was softened. He coughed frequently, his pulse fell, he had several loose stools, and the disease evidently abated. The syrup was repeated every two hours, and the same dose of calomel at bedtime.

“ When I called upon the 23d, I was agreeably surprised to find my patient quite cheery and playful. His breathing was easy, and without noise; but his cough had still a crouped sound. He expectorated a very viscid mucus; but
nothing

nothing that could be positively called membranous. His medicines were continued on the 24th and 25th, in the same doses, after which he only took two grains of calomel at bedtime; to which a few grains of jalap were added, when his bowels were slow.

“ Upon the 29th he was so well that the use of the calomel was laid aside.

“ Sept. 3, 1799. He has never had any return of the disease.”

17. *The History of three Cases, with Circumstances somewhat singular, terminating favourably.* By Dr. George Borthwick, Physician, Kilkenny. 1. *A Case of wounded Kidney.* 2. *A Case of inguinal Hernia.* 3. *A Case of Cataract, cured by Extraction of the crystalline Lens.*

“ Case 1. A dragoon, aged 30, received the stab of a sword, known by the name of cut-and-thrust, under the short rib of the left side, which was soon followed by a copious discharge of blood from the urethra. This discharge continued sometimes greater, at other times less, for the space of eight hours, when it ceased.

“ The accident happened in the evening; and he was immediately attended by Mr. Taylor, surgeon of the 6th regiment, and Mr. Purdon, assistant-surgeon of the regiment to which the soldier belonged, two gentlemen of much respectability in their profession.

“ I was called in on the following morning; and Mr. Pack, surgeon of the county hospital, a man of distinguished abilities, was soon afterwards added to our assistance.

“ At the end of three days, the hæmorrhage per urethram returned, and continued violent for ten days, when it ceased for five days, and again broke out, and lasted a fortnight, but with less violence than on a former occasion. After this period there was no further discharge of blood.

“ There never was any hæmorrhage from the external wound.

“ Soon after the cessation of the bleeding from the urethra,

thra, the patient had slight rigors, and in twenty-four hours after the urine became very turbid, and deposited a copious puriform sediment. This appearance continued eight days.

“ The external wound had hitherto continued pale, and without any disposition to heal; but from this period it put on a healthy aspect, and was completely cicatrised in the course of a fortnight. And in a few weeks afterwards he was perfectly recovered, and has now continued well for two years.

“ In this case, we had no doubt of the kidney being wounded, and of the point of the sword having penetrated into what is termed the pelvis. The patient was often affected with severe fits of vomiting, but the pain in the region of the kidney never was violent. Nor were the spermatic cord or testicle in the smallest degree painful during the whole business; nor did any symptom occur of blood, urine, or pus having taken any other route than into the pelvis of the kidney.

“ In the treatment of this case all the boasted astringents and sedatives, assiduously used, both internally and externally, were of no utility. And we were fully sensible that we derived advantage only from copious and repeated blood-letting, according to the severity of symptoms and state of the pulse.

“ During our treatment of this case, we in vain searched the records of surgery for a wounded kidney. And as this is a clear one, not complicated with injury of any other viscus, it points out the symptoms and consequences of a wound in the kidney, penetrating into its pelvis, considered abstractedly; a case which I do not find in any book of surgery, nor in any publication of cases.”

The *second case* is respecting a young woman, aged 27, who had an inguinal hernia, for which Mr. Pack operated successfully.

“ *Case 3.*—About three months ago, I was present when Mr. Pack extracted the crystalline lens from the right eye of
a woman,

a woman, aged 76, who had lost the sight of both eyes by cataract, about six months before the operation was performed. This operation succeeded so well, that in the course of two months she was able to follow her usual occupation, which is that of a sick-nurse.

“ In Mr. Benj. Bell’s System of Surgery, he speaks unfavourably of this operation; and seems to be convinced, that in a few months the patient becomes as blind as before extraction was performed. My observations have, in most instances, been quite contrary to Mr. Bell’s. And there is a man living in this city, from whose right eye I extracted a cataract eight years ago, and who now enjoys as perfect vision as is ever obtained after this operation.”

The last section contains letters and observations of a miscellaneous nature, under the head of Medical News. The volume is then concluded with a list of new books. A.

ART. IV. *Discourses on the Nature and Cure of Wounds. In Two Volumes.* By JOHN BELL, Surgeon. Second Edition. Octavo. 435 Pages. CADELL and DAVIES, London. 1800. Price 8s.

MR. Bell’s Discourses, we are persuaded, will be read with considerable advantage by all chirurgical students; although it is to be regretted that his style and spirit are so little worthy of imitation.

This work was formerly published in *one* volume; and as it only contains 435 pages, we can see no good reason for dividing it in this edition into two. The author gives the following account of the work, as it is now presented to the public:

“ These Discourses on Wounds are too imperfect to be much altered, too good to be entirely thrown away. The plan was limited at the first, and the work must remain in its original

form ; for, without changing its character, it can hardly be improved.

“ Nothing more was designed than a sketch of a great and interesting subject : but that sketch has been favourably received ; it has been found useful ; an edition of sixteen hundred copies has been rapidly sold ; and the approbation of the public forbids the author saying much concerning those imperfections which an author must feel more sensibly than others, which, if he have a due respect for himself, he will be proud to acknowledge.

“ It is some time since these Discourses were composed. The author was, even at the first, conscious of many imperfections, and is sensible that he now regards them with such impartial and chastened approbation as a friend might indulge. The natural progress of the mind, when continually employed in the pursuit of knowledge, inclines every man of sense and diligence to think, perhaps, too humbly of past labours. The author of this elementary book has been at pains to correct some of the many errors of the first edition, and should be happy to make this more worthy of the approbation of the public, or of those gentlemen to whom it is inscribed.

“ But while he is employed in another work, in which the general principles of surgery are more fully displayed, he shall feel himself greatly supported if the public condescend to receive, with any degree of favour, this second edition of the book on wounds.”

Y.

ART. V. *The most cogent Reasons why astringent Injections, caustic Bougies, and violent Salivations, should be banished for ever from Practice : with the mildest Methods of safely treating every Species of venereal Infection, Strictures of the Urethra, &c. and correcting Mischiefs arising from caustic Bougies.*
By WILLIAM ROWLEY, M. D. Member of the University of Oxford, the Royal College of Physicians in London ;
Physician

Physician to the St. Mary-le-Bone Infirmary; and Author of *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova*, the Rational Practice of Physic, &c. &c. Octavo. 175 pages. MURRAY and HIGHLEY, London. 1800. Price 4s.

FROM the expectations which have been industriously raised in favour of the present work, and from the importance of the subject on which it treats, we were induced to pay it a considerable share of attention; notwithstanding the levity of the title, and the censure it contained against what the author would have us understand to be the ordinary practice in venereal complaints. But it is well known that modern surgeons do not generally incline to harshness; on the contrary, it has been suspected, that by our aversion to the cautery, and the rough practice of the ancients, we are sometimes disappointed in our endeavours to cure diseases wherein they boasted of complete success. That profuse salivation should not be induced, nor astringent injections or caustic bougies applied, except in cases of difficulty, and which are not removable by milder means, and that they should be only used by persons of judgment and experience, we shall readily allow; but that they “*should be banished for ever from practice,*” we cannot admit, until more efficacious means than any here suggested shall be discovered to supply their place: indeed, we shall find the author acknowledging one of them at least may be sometimes necessary, and that it may be occasionally resorted to.

The work is introduced by a general view of the origin of the venereal disease, of the dreadful effects that attended its first appearance, of the conduct of practitioners at that remote period, and of the gradual and increasing mildness of the present practice.

In this part the author pays a just tribute to the value of mercury, which he considers as the only remedy that may with safety be depended on in the cure of the disease; and he

reproves with firmness and indignation the conduct of those practitioners who pretend to under-rate its powers and magnify its defects, or the injuries it sometimes occasions, in order to raise the reputation of a new and favourite medicine. He here particularly refers to the experimenters with the nitric and other acids. “Even now,” he says, (p. 3.) “the application of mercury is forbid by some novices in the art, more attached to speculations than to sound practice; and in cases too that require its prompt and excellent assistance.” But he is still more severe on another class of men, who, while they pretend to reprobate mercury, use it clandestinely, and actually owe all their reputation to the small portion of the mineral which is secretly introduced into their compositions. “And this,” he observes, (p. 4.) “is no new trick; it has been the finesse of boasters, pretenders, and deceivers, for more than two centuries.”

The author next takes a general view of the disease, and of the different modes by which its cure may be effected.

“Millions of experiments,” he says, (p. 8.) “prove that mercury is the only, the best, and safest antidote for venereal infection. The modes of applying mercury are external and internal.

“The external methods are by mercurial friction, fumigations of cinnabar, warm baths, composed of aqueous solutions of hydrargyrus muriatus, which last few use. The internal are, simple mercury, or mixed or prepared with acids, &c. The anointing with mercury is divided into two modes of treatment—by powerful salivation, or by extinction of the disease without salivation, or with a very slight ptyalism; warm baths to the number of thirty, with light frictions every other, or every third day; and by aperients, occasionally prescribed, to prevent the sore mouth, &c. This last plan suits best the south of France, Italy, and warmer climates; but is not so successful in England, and much less so in very cold countries.

“Strong

“ Strong fluxing salivations I have always thought unnecessary, except in very strong robust habits, not easily moved, and very particular cases : they are too violent, often injurious through life to delicate habits ; and as frequently unsuccessful as several other modes, in cases of difficult cure.”

Thus it appears, from the spontaneous testimony of the author, that “ *strong fluxing salivations,*” that is, we presume, violent salivations, are sometimes necessary, viz. “ in very strong and robust habits not easily moved, and in very particular cases ;” (the only constitutions and cases in which it is now resorted to by experienced and judicious practitioners ;) consequently it is not to be “ *banished for ever from practice,*” as the Doctor tells us in the title.

“ Different practitioners,” the author goes on to say, “ pursue the mode of cure to which they have been most accustomed ; those who think no other practice effectual, except salivations excited by frictions, censure the methods by alteratives ; those who pursue the middle course, or depend on mercurials and antimonials as alteratives, will equally reprobate violent distressing salivations, so much in vogue in most of the hospitals in Europe.

“ Both methods, and likewise others, perfectly cure the disease ; but every method has failed, and will fail, in some few instances, which experienced and candid practitioners readily acknowledge. In some cases, and in particular constitutions, the venereal virus attaches itself so firmly, that it is disunited, or extinguished, with the greatest difficulty. Repeated salivations have been frequently known to fail ; and it may be asserted with truth, that every purpose of salivation may be effected without that destroyer of teeth, gums, and producer of ulcerations of the mouth, throat, &c. by the mild alterative courses adopted and recommended in this treatise.”

In all this we see nothing exceptionable, or differing from the opinions of the most celebrated surgeons ; who all of them,

them, in particular cases and circumstances, make use of the mild alterative method, and sometimes with complete success. But in cases of confirmed lues, when the situation of the patient will admit of it, they recommend, in the first instance, confinement and mercurial frictions; which, we have no doubt, the author is frequently obliged to have recourse to, after fruitlessly attempting the cure by his *mild* alterative method.

The author next treats of gonorrhœa, or, as he calls it, urethritis venerea. The page is here divided into two columns; in one he gives the symptoms of the disease, in the other the remedies or treatment.

“There are two methods,” he says, “of treating the disease; the one speedy, by *astrigent drying injections*, but hazardous, and frequently dangerous in its consequences; the other slower, by internal medicines, but certain, safe, and secure from all future evils.” If this is meant as a delineation of the practice of the London surgeons in gonorrhœa, it is extremely incorrect and uncandid, no two surgeons, perhaps, following exactly the same method; nor any surgeon, we believe, treating the disease in all subjects, and under all circumstances, in the same manner. Where the inflammation is considerable, local bleeding, gentle aperients, with demulcent and cooling applications, are universally resorted to; and it is not until this symptom is appeased that astrigent injections are employed.

The author thinks gonorrhœa can never be safely cured without mercury. In this he is not singular; it was, until very lately, the custom constantly, and it is now a very frequent practice, to give a grain of calomel, or some other mercurial preparation, every night; while cooling and aperient medicines are given to remove the ardor urinæ, and other inflammatory symptoms. He is very sanguine in his recommendation of nitre, and the compound powder of gum tragacanth; and brings the authority of a variety of authors, ancient and modern, to prove their utility, particularly that of
nitre.

nitre. He might certainly have spared himself the labour, as there are, we believe, few practitioners, however moderately gifted, but are equally acquainted with, and as frequently use those medicines as the author does. He is very severe against the use of astringent injections, and attributes to them strictures in the urethra, which, he contends, are more frequent now than heretofore. Whether strictures in the urethra are more frequent now than formerly, we pretend not to determine; having no well-authenticated registers to recur to, by which the fact might be ascertained: but of this we are certain, we have met with many strictures in the urethra, and of the most troublesome and dangerous kind, in persons who never used *any* kind of injection! Admitting, however, that the preposterous and injudicious use of caustic, or violently astringent injections, may have sometimes occasioned obstructions to the passage of the urine, it does not surely follow from thence, that the temperate use of moderately astringent injections must do the same. Indeed thousands of cases might be collected in which they have been used, not only without mischief, but even with manifest and sovereign benefit.

Although the author is very averse to the use of violent astringent injections, yet he does not seem to have any apprehension of danger from stopping the discharge of gonorrhœa in limine, provide it be done by a medicine that has, as he conceives, a specific power over the virus. “In the commencement,” he says, (p. 11.) “of the disorder, if a mercurial mucilaginous injection be skilfully applied, the cure is often accomplished in a few days, with very little medicine; but after that early period, all injections may be hazardous.”

The following are the forms of injections he recommends for this purpose:

“No. 1. *Injectio Hydrargyri Gummosa.*

“R Ung. hydrarg. fort. ℥ij, Vitel. ovorum duorum, vel Mucilag. gummii arab. ℥ß ad ʒvj, Olei amygdalæ ʒjß, Aquæ puræ ʒiijß. Fiat injectio.

“No.

“ *No. 2. Injectio Mercurialis.*

“ R Mercurii vivi depurati ℥j, Gummi arab. electi ℥℥. Contere in mucum, adde sensim conterendo Aquæ puræ ℔j. Misceantur, fiat injectio.

“ *No. 3. Injectio Hydrargyri.*

“ R Hydr. muriati gr j. Solve in aquæ distillatæ ℥vij℥, Mucilag. gummi arab. ℥℥. M. fiat injectio, ter vel quater de die utenda ope syphonis.

“ The elastic gum machine,” he says, “ with a conic-formed ivory tube, is more convenient than a syringe. I was one of the first, above thirty years ago, who introduced this improvement.

“ With the first of these injections I have cured an immense number of virulent gonorrhœas, by sheathing the urinary passage, and applying the specific mercury in its simplest form, to destroy the poisonous contaminating particles; but it was never used unless the disease were very recent, and before the purulent stage appeared. It has been seldom recommended for many years, though an excellent remedy, from the few opportunities offering to administer it, in the first stage of the disease. I always, or most commonly, prescribed mucilaginous drinks, with or without nitre, during its exhibition, and gentle antiphlogistic eccoprotics. The scalding, or ardor urinæ, was seldom experienced, the purulent stage of the disease was slight and short, the mucal discharge was much expedited, and this was left to diminish daily, until the running entirely ceased, for I never ordered astringent injections.

“ To secure the patient from all future ill consequences,” [Does this treatment *secure* the patient?] “ I gave internally some light mercurial for two or three weeks; but never so as to affect the mouth, except from cold or accident.

“ The second and third injections I never used, but give them with little alteration, on the authority of that justly celebrated physician, Plenck, of Vienna, to whom mankind and the

the medical profession are singularly obliged for many learned writings."

The author seems to think these injections act by correcting and altering the poisonous quality of the discharge, and not by changing the morbid action of the fibres of the urethra. He prefers, we observe, his own incongruous mixture, No. 1. to the more neat and elegant compositions of Plenck; which latter, however, he confesses he has never used. We shall dismiss this part of the subject with a general observation: Although the author declaims vehemently against what he would have his readers to believe to be the most usual method of treating gonorrhœa, it is apparent that the practice he condemns is only that followed by the lowest order of practitioners, or by quacks and mountebanks, and is as different from the practice of the regular and judicious surgeon as that which he adopts.

That our readers may have a fair specimen of Dr. Rowley's mode of reasoning on the superior advantages of his mild alterative plan in the cure of gonorrhœa, the following extract is given:

"While the urethritis venerea," he says, "is thus treated, in a mild manner, with antiphlogistic aperients and mucilaginous sheathers against urethral inflammation and urinal acrimony, it should be remembered, that the cause of the evil consists in venereal virus, which cannot, with certainty, be removed without mercury; therefore, after the first few evacuations, that mineral should be administered in the mildest forms, not as an evacuant, but as an alterative. This plan consists in giving the preparations in small doses, and at proper distances, so as never, unless by accident, to prove purgative or salivant. As these methods are not well known, and mercurials are commonly prescribed in too large doses, which may be seen in practice and in most prescription-books, and the intention of repelling the virus is often defeated, it will be necessary to deliver a short explanation of the alterative plan

plan of cure, which, in thousands of instances, has been successfully adopted.

“ 1. There is a marked and positive distinction between the venereal inflammation of the urethra and the inflammation of other parts, arising from different and other various causes : hence the necessity of dissimilar treatment.

“ 2. The most subtle poisonous particles of venereal contagion may not, in all cases, be absorbed and conveyed into the constitution from recent urethral affection ; chancres ill treated by caustics, desiccatives, &c. ; yet it is impossible for the most sagacious and experienced physician to be quite certain, when it may or may not have happened : it must be safest, therefore, to guard against future ill consequences, by a judicious and mild administration of the cause-removing specific, mercury. It is a disgrace to the art, not to perfectly cure the primary affection, when in the genitals, so that no future venereal symptoms may appear, unless in very extraordinary cases.

“ 3. It is reasonable to suppose, and innumerable facts prove, that not only the venereal virus, but infectious, and particularly putrid diseases, are best opposed and most easily cured, when attacked at the most early period, by well-adapted and adequate remedies. A slight local affection is with greater facility cured than a disease of great magnitude : a clap, and primary symptoms, much more easily than a confirmed universal pox. By giving mercurials early, absorption of the venereal virus is prevented ; by neglecting this safe and secure mode of treatment, the foundation of a future lues venerea is promoted.

“ 4. It must appear evident, that the venereal virus, when received and conveyed into the constitution, does not always shew its effects in a few days, like acute, infectious, putrid-tending fevers, or small-pox, &c. ; but is often slow in its progress, and very frequently not suspected to be in the habit, until dreadful symptoms shew that the solids and fluids are,

in certain degrees, contaminated with the penetrating miasma, or venereal poison.

“ 5. Immediately after the virus may have been absorbed and carried through the thoracic duct, left or right subclavian vein, into the blood, the minute venereal particles must be very few in comparison to those which, after long circulation and diffusion in the habit, produce such direful effects.

“ 6. When there be but few particles in the constitution, which must be the case whilst the disease be recent, those few particles must, as millions of indubitable facts prove, certainly be more speedily extinguished by mercury, at that early period, and by lighter means than when the particles, producing the effect of universal lues, have been multiplied by daily, monthly, or annual accumulation, until the greater part of the body seems a series of venereal taint. The powerful methods of cure, often required under such circumstances, incontrovertibly prove this fact.

“ 7. When the venereal poisonous particles may be absorbed, the remedies should be applied so as not to purge; but to penetrate the inmost and most minute recesses of the habit, to exterminate not only the present seeds of the disease; but likewise the minutest parts of the human body should be so well saturated with the effects of mercury, that the baneful and destructive causes may be perfectly extinguished.

“ 8. As the accumulation of venereal particles, when absorbed, often seems slow in its progress, though perhaps daily acquiring additional force; so should remedies be applied, that act on the habit and effectually counteract venereal poison by slow degrees, with or without opium, according as the stomach and intestines are irritable, or non-irritable. Violent practices often have failed, and will fail, in eradicating the virus. From hence the principle of administering mercury in a mild manner, either by the mouth or frictions, or by both, that shall be efficacious; yet not excite those violent commotions of the body, that former severe salivations and

other rough methods produced, and rendered the remedy at times worse than the disease."

That the venereal, as well as every other disease, may be easier combated, and probably more completely cured, when attacked in the commencement, and before it has fixed itself in the constitution, and that mild and lenient modes of cure are always to be preferred to rough and hazardous methods, when equally efficacious, (which are the positions principally insisted on in the extract we have given,) are facts no one, we presume, will controvert, and seem hardly deserving the trouble the author has taken to establish them; but he has thought it worth his while to discuss, in the same grave and serious manner, many other topics or positions, as little controvertible; such as, that "a knowledge of physic is equally necessary as surgery in the treatment of venereal affections," (p. 86.) "That ignorance, where true science should predominate, is an enormous vice," which he defends by the authority of Celsus and other great writers: "That moderate talents are equal to light trifling cases, but not to difficult ones:" and many other equally recondite sentiments. These, however, are innocent; and may perhaps amuse, if they do not instruct the reader: but not so his frequent and indiscriminate censure of other practitioners, and his ostentatious display of his own extraordinary success. If he really performs many thousands of cures, in all sorts of diseases, his merit must be too well known to need being blazoned by his own pen! We wish he had abstained from such frequent references to his own works, which have not, in the least, wanted the aid of advertisements to make them universally known; and that he would allow the same degree of credit to be given to the well-attested cases of other writers, he expects should be accorded to his single assertions. The question whether caustics may or may not be safely and efficaciously employed in the cure of strictures, is not to be decided by declamation, nor even by arguments or reasoning, but by actual experiments and facts.

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To that test the practice has appealed, and the utility of it in some cases is confirmed, not only by the irrefragable testimony of Mr. Home, whose observations are in every one's hands, but by the experience of many of the most eminent surgeons now existing. That mischief may, and has been done by the caustic, in cases of stricture, when employed by ignorant, or not sufficient persons, we have no doubt; the same has happened from the improper use of Peruvian bark, opium, mercury, and every other powerful remedy: but the evils which have hitherto arisen from the application of caustic bougies may be generally avoided—by using them with a lenient hand in obstinate cases only, and especially *by not allowing the caustic to project beyond the extremity of the instrument.*

The author is strongly prepossessed in favour of medicated bougies, and thinks they have a specific power of correcting the virus; but as the mercury, or whatever ingredient may be used in their composition, is involved in viscid, resinous, or oily matter, they cannot be supposed to produce any considerable effect in that way. Besides, the membrane lining the urethra being usually thickened, in cases where bougies are applied, and the bougie remaining but a short time in the passage, little opportunity is given for absorption. The opinion of the author is by no means new, and may be held by other practitioners, but not, we believe, by those who have had most opportunity of knowing the fact. Admitting, however, that a medicated bougie could impart some degree of healing virtue to a contracted urethra, how can this be imagined to set the strictured part at liberty?

On the whole, our readers will perceive, we are by no means satisfied that the reasons offered by the author for banishing for ever from practice astringent injections, caustic bougies, or violent salivations, are cogent or convincing; on the contrary, we are persuaded, there are, and always will be, cases in which those remedies may be used with advantage to the patient and credit to the practitioner:

ART. VI. *A Letter to Thomas Keate, Esq. Surgeon-general to the Army, one of the Surgeons to St. George's Hospital, &c. &c. &c.; with some general Remarks on the medical Profession: occasioned by the approaching Election of a Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, vacant by the Resignation of Charles Hawkins, Esq. on the 9th of April, 1800. Octavo. 32 pages. HURST, London. Price 1s.*

THE principal design of this short Letter is to recommend a new mode of electing medical officers to hospitals and dispensaries. The author very justly remarks, that the method commonly had recourse to excludes the possibility of professional discernment in the majority of electors; and, therefore, that such elections might be more advantageously conducted by a committee appointed by the governors at large, who should be qualified to consider and determine on the merits of the respective candidates. The only objection he knows of against this proposal, is that subscribers to hospitals, &c. might regard it as an infringement of their privilege to be deprived of the power of voting on these occasions: but he can hardly conceive “that any gentleman or lady, who subscribes simply from an honest thought of common good to all, on a patriotic and Christian principle of true benevolence, could ever suffer an imaginary, and often a very troublesome, privilege to stand in the way of substantial advantage to the community.”

V.

ART. VII. *Transactions of a Society for the Improvement of medical and chirurgical Knowledge; illustrated with Copper-plates. Vol. II. Octavo. 378 pages. JOHNSON, London. 1800. Price 8s.*

WITH much satisfaction we announce the publication of a second volume by this truly respectable Society. The detail of

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of the symptoms of disease, the effects of remedies, and the appearances on dissection, may be considered as the experimental part of medicine; from a sedulous cultivation of which can alone be expected the real improvement of the science. When we consider that the example of carefully noting the progress of diseases was given by Hippocrates, the parent of the medical art, the accuracy of whose observations, drawn immediately from nature, must render his works valuable to the latest posterity, it is surprising that his successors should ever have deviated so far from truth, as to substitute chimerical hypotheses in place of the attentive observation of disease. Lord Bacon has noticed this neglect of the Hippocratic method, as the principal obstacle to the improvement of the medical art: “*Intermissio diligentiae illius Hippocratis, utilis admodum et accuratae; cui moris erat narrativam componere, casuum circa ægrotos specialium; referendo qualis fuisset morbis natura, qualis medicatio, qualis eventus:*” adding, very properly, “*Quis autem ad observandum adjiciet animum, ei etiam, in rebus quæ vulgares videntur, multa observatu digna occurrent*.*”

Yet even in the present day, when observation and experiment are acknowledged as the only sources of improvement in every other department of natural knowledge, hypothetical notions still continue to influence the practice of physic. Let us hope, however, that the true art of philosophizing by experiment and observation will gradually influence the science of medicine, and that the mode of deducing general rules from particular facts will ere long subvert the habit of acting upon preconceived opinion.

The improvement of medicine is also impeded by the want of that faithfulness in detailing cases which might entitle them to implicit credit. Nor does this arise from any intention to deceive on the part of the narrator. If cases are brought forward in support of some peculiar mode of practice, or are

* *De Augmentis Scientiarum.*

seen through the medium of some favourite hypothesis, or described in terms whose acceptation depends on a belief in the evanescent theory of the day; these all afford sources of involuntary fallacy. To describe appearances as they really occur in nature, requires not only an unbiassed candour of intention, but an accurate judgment, and a chastised imagination; mental qualifications which every student who has sincerely at heart the improvement of his art should early cultivate.

The respectability of the names affixed to the communications in the volume now before us, and the high pledge for integrity which they owe to the public, in return for the confidence reposed in them, entitle them to every degree of credit and consideration.

The first article consists of,

Observations on the Case of a Woman who died with a Fœtus in the Fallopian Tube. By John Clarke, M.D. Read October 3, 1793.

This case is accurately related, and illustrated by well-executed engravings. The most interesting part of it, however, is the train of ingenious reflections it appears to have suggested to the mind of the author. He observes, “There is another point not unworthy of observation in this case, and which has occurred in others of the same nature, that pains exactly resembling those of labour came on at the end of nine months. I shall not attempt to explain this, but shall just remark, that it confutes all those theories respecting the cause of labour, which are founded on the presence of the child in the uterus.

“Another thing to be observed is, that the fœtus seems to have died as soon as the period of nine months was at an end. If we suppose that this depends upon any thing in the economy of the child, which will not allow it to subsist under the circumstance of a want of exposure of its blood to vital air after that time, it would prove a stronger resemblance, in this respect, of viviparous to oviparous animals, than we have
been

been generally disposed to admit; or than we have been well warranted in believing. In the latter we know, that the internal structure of the egg regulates the time of its being hatched more than the degree of heat to which it may be exposed, as is perpetually proved in the instance of placing hens eggs under a duck, or ducks eggs under a hen."

The following deductions are of a more practical and useful nature: "It will, I think, appear, and it is confirmed by the case which has been now related, and that in the first volume of these Transactions, that there are no symptoms sufficiently characteristic of conceptions in the Fallopian tube, to enable us to discriminate between them and common gestation in the uterus.

"It farther seems not to be an uncommon consequence of conceptions in the Fallopian tube, that the tube bursts. Of this accident the consequences will be various, and will depend on many circumstances.

"If the cyst should be ruptured near the part where the placenta adheres, an hæmorrhage must ensue, which will be more or less in quantity according to the size and number of the lacerated vessels.

"If the quantity should be very large, the destruction of the patient must follow, as happened in the case alluded to before. If, however, the lacerated part should be of less extent, more distant from the attachment of the placenta, and if the number and size of the divided vessels should be small, then either the laceration may be healed by the coagulated blood forming a living substance and uniting with the torn cyst; or the extravasated blood (if in small quantity) may be absorbed, and the laceration still remaining, the ovum may grow on that side towards the cavity of the abdomen; and as upon examination after death the membranes would appear immediately within the parietes of the abdomen, this might give occasion to a supposition, that the ovum adhered to some part of the general cavity of the abdomen, when, in fact, the point of adhesion was to the Fallopian tube."

2. *Account of a Case in which Death was brought on by an Hæmorrhage from the Liver.* By G. Blane, M.D. F.R.S. &c. Read May 6, 1794.

From the relation of this case we learn nothing more than the mere fact of death being the consequence of spontaneous hæmorrhage from the liver in a boy eight years of age. We cannot see how the author is justified in referring this disease to scrophula, especially as at the commencement of the relation he tells us, the patient had “no symptoms of scrophula or rickets, or any external blemish or deformity.”

3. *An Account of the Croup, as it appeared in the Town and Neighbourhood of Chesham, in Buckinghamshire, in the Years 1793 and 1794.* By Henry Rumsey, Surgeon at Chesham. Communicated by Dr. Clarke. Read July 1, 1794.

The history of this disease is detailed with accuracy, but we perceive no combination of symptoms that has not been already noticed by writers on the same subject. The author observes, “The subjects were children from within the first to the fourteenth year. Authors speak of twelve years being the extent of age in which the complaint takes place, but I have met with it in a boy of thirteen, and in a girl fourteen years old.

“It attacked very different constitutions. Some were of pale phlegmatic temperaments; but this was by no means the case generally; for many were fine, healthy, robust children.”

The author trusted chiefly to emetics of Vin. ipecac. combined with Tinc. scillæ, repeated every four or five hours, and to the administration of calomel. The use of these remedies was not, however, attended with very flattering success, as of nineteen patients whose cases are noticed, ten died. And towards the termination of the epidemic, when we find the greatest proportion of recoveries, the author confesses the disease was evidently less severe.

4. *The Case of a young Woman who poisoned herself in the first Month of her Pregnancy.* By Thomas Ogle, Surgeon, Great Russel Street, Bloomsbury. To which is added, *an Account of the Appearances after Death.* By the late John Hunter.

Communicated to the Society by Everard Home. Read August 5, 1794.

An opportunity here offered of inspecting the appearances of the uterus at a very short and definite period after impregnation had taken place. The dissection was performed by the late Mr. J. Hunter, and is related with great accuracy. The account does not admit of abridgment; but the following is the general result in the words of the author:

“The appearances in the uterus, here described, the late Dr. Hunter, in his lectures, mentioned to have seen at a very early period after impregnation: so far they are not entirely new. The accuracy of the examination renders this case valuable, as it seems to enable us to decide a point hitherto not at all understood—That certain changes in the uterus not only take place previous to the reception of the foetus, but that the foetus does not acquire a visible form for some time after these changes have been made.”

5. *An Account of a Case of Diabetes, with an Examination of the Appearances after Death.* By M. Baillie, M.D. F.R.S. &c. Read February 3, 1795.

At a time when the attention of the medical world has been excited by the proposal of new theories and novel modes of practice in a disease which has been found too frequently to resist all the efforts of art, any observations concerning it, coming from so respectable a quarter, cannot fail to be interesting. In this case the “general health of the patient, before the coming on of this disease, had been good, and he had not been given to intemperance. He complained of extreme thirst, with a voracious appetite, and passed about ten pints of urine at an average in twenty-four hours. The urine was of a yellowish green colour, with some degree of turbidness; was free from any urinous smell, and had a strong sweetness to the taste. A large portion of saccharine matter, in which there were some imperfect crystals, was procured from it in several trials by evaporation.”

During the progress of the disease the patient made use of the following medicines, none of which produced any permanently good effects, though the quantity of urine discharged occasionally varied during the use of all of them: Decoction of bark with vitriolic acid, a powder composed of three parts of soda phosphorata, and one of ferrum vitriolatum, a preparation said to have been successfully employed in a similar case; extract of cicuta; mercurial ointment rubbed in, till the mouth became tender; shocks of electricity were also passed through the loins. The patient died of an attack of erysipelas and sore throat. Soon after death the body was examined by dissection. We insert the account of the appearances in the kidneys and stomach, as most interesting.

“*Kidneys.*—Both kidneys were of the ordinary size and shape. When the proper capsule was removed from each, the veins upon the surface were much fuller of blood than usual, putting on an arborescent appearance. When the substance of both kidneys was cut into, it was observed to be everywhere much more crowded with blood-vessels than in a natural state, so as in some parts to approach to the appearance of inflammation. Both kidneys had the same degree of firmness to the touch as when healthy, but I think were hardly so firm as kidneys usually are, the vessels of which are so much filled with blood. It is difficult, however, to speak very accurately about nice differences in degrees of sensation, unless they can be brought into immediate comparison.

“A very small quantity of a whitish fluid, a good deal resembling pus, was squeezed out from one or two infundibula in both kidneys, but there was no appearance of ulceration in either. Upon first tasting the fluid, I thought it had some degree of sweetness; but upon a repetition I was doubtful.

“The artery and vein passing into the cavity of each kidney presented exactly the natural appearance. After separating a good deal the cellular membrane which joins together the blood-vessels, I discovered a lymphatic passing from one of
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the kidneys: this was of the usual size, had the common valvular appearance, and was empty. There were, doubtless, several others belonging to both kidneys; but these were so small as not to be distinguishable, a circumstance which is very common in the lymphatics of the kidneys.

“ The nerves of the kidneys were of the usual size, and the ureters of both were perfectly natural. The renal capsules appeared quite healthy.

“ There was also no diseased appearance in the urinary bladder; its inner membrane was more crowded than usual with small blood-vessels; but this is not uncommon in all states of the body. I could perceive no lymphatic vessels at the neck of the bladder, but these are generally of so minute a size as to be discoverable with great difficulty.

“ *Stomach and Intestines.*—In cutting into the stomach, some quantity of a green pulpy matter was found, and there was also the same kind of matter in the duodenum. The matter in the upper part of the jejunum was of the same sort, but much more fluid. The structure of the stomach was quite sound. In some parts of its inner membrane there were little red spots produced by an accumulation of very fine blood-vessels; but this appearance is extremely common in other cases. There was a greater determination of blood than usual to the whole track of the small intestines, but their structure was every where sound. The great intestines had no particular determination of blood to them, but were distended with air.

“ The mesenteric glands were all healthy, except one or two, which contained a good deal of an earthy matter; no lacteal vessels were any where visible.”

The Doctor next proceeds to take a review, and to combat, we think with great success, the opinions concerning the proximate cause of diabetes, successively brought forward by Drs. Mead, Cullen, Dobson, and particularly the recent conjectures of Dr. Darwin, concerning the retrograde action of the absorbents.

To the younger part of the profession, who are desirous of laying before the public the result of their experience, we would recommend this paper as a fit mode for imitation, in which the truly philosophic modesty and diffidence of the author are no less conspicuous, than the ingenuity of his arguments and the clearness of his statements are convincing. He concludes in the following words: "When so many men of ingenuity have failed in their attempts to explain the cause of this disease, I will not venture to bring forward any theory of my own. It would probably be only adding to the mass of conjectures, with which medical science has been already too much loaded. I should wish, however, to recommend it to the future observation of others, to determine how far the appearance of the kidneys, which has been described in a former part of this paper, may be constant in diabetic patients, and, therefore, whether diabetes may not probably depend, in an important degree, although perhaps not entirely, upon a morbid action of the kidneys themselves."

The following note should not be omitted: "The reader will be pleased to recollect, that this case occurred, and the present account of it was written, long before the valuable publication of Dr. Rollo upon diabetes appeared, in which a mode of practice has been recommended that has been attended with much more success than any hitherto adopted."

6. *An Account of two Cases, shewing the Existence of the Small-pox and the Measles in the same Person at the same Time. And an Account of a Case of Ague in a Child in Utero.* By P. Russell, M.D. F.R.S. Read March 3, 1795.

The statement of this fact destroys the universality of the axiom of Mr. J. Hunter, that two diseased actions cannot go on at the same time. As, however, out of a great many cases, while both diseases were very prevalent, the synchronous existence of both complaints occurred only twice, the rule may still be considered as general, liable, however, to some exceptions.

The mother and child both laboured under ague at the same time,

time, though the paroxysms of the foetus took place at different periods from those of the mother. They were both cured by the Peruvian bark, the child apparently first. This affords a striking example of the intimate connexion and influence of the maternal and foetal systems.

7. *Cases and Observations on strangulated Hernia.* By Everard Home, Esq. F.R.S. &c. Read April 7, 1795.

To the practical surgeon the relation of these cases, and the judicious reflections founded on them, will afford useful information. They are incapable of being abridged; but we shall transcribe the following observation as deserving general attention: "There is, however, one symptom that comes on in the last stage of this disease, which appears to be the immediate forerunner of death, and after it has taken place, I apprehend the operation will always prove ineffectual. This is a general coldness, attended with moisture over the surface of the body; it is, to the feel, even colder than the skin of the same person when dead; but the real degree of cold (I believe) has never been measured by a thermometer.

"In every case I have met with, in which this symptom had taken place, the patient died; in some the operation was performed, in others it was not; but in all of them the patients continued to sink gradually, and in less than twenty-four hours expired."

8. *A fatal Case of Hernia of some of the abdominal Viscera strangulated in the Cavity of the Thorax.* By John Clarke, M.D. Read May 5, 1795.

Dr. Clarke is inclined to consider this as a hernia congenita. The adhesions found on dissection proved the disease to have been of long continuance; and although similar protrusions of part of the intestines through the diaphragm have been sometimes found in children who usually die soon from difficulty of breathing, the Doctor observes, that his inquiries have furnished him with no examples of similar perforations through the diaphragm in adults.

9. *On the Effect of the pure fixed Alkalies, and of Lime-water, in several Complaints.* By G. Blane, M.D. F.R.S. &c.
Read March 1, 1796.

These observations form an useful addition to the stock of practical medical knowledge. That the administration of alkalies gave relief in irritations of the urinary passages, where they produced no effects as solvents of the stone, has been already noticed in the administration of the aqua mephitica alkalina. The following rationale of their mode of action is ingenious :

“ May not the superior efficacy of the pure alkali over other absorbent substances depend upon a chemical fact discovered by Scheele, that the acid of the urine has a weaker affinity with alkalies than even the carbonic acid? For while this acid is combined with an alkali or earth, these substances cannot act as absorbents with regard to an acid which has a weaker affinity.”

The author proceeds to observe: “ The next complaints I have to mention, in which I have observed these remedies to be useful, are certain cases of indigestion, especially those in which acidity is the prevailing symptom. In these I have had the most unequivocal proofs of the good effects of lime-water and pure alkalies, the former being given in doses from three to four ounces, twice or thrice a day, and the latter from twenty to thirty drops, as often, diluted in a watery vehicle. I have observed a manifest superiority of the pure mineral alkali or natron over the pure vegetable alkali, or kali, in stomach complaints, and I should think the former deserves a place in our dispensatories.”

The third class of diseases in which the Doctor has found alkalies useful are cutaneous eruptions, especially such as appear to be connected with disorders of the digestive faculties, gutta rosacea, &c. In these he has also found lime-water useful as a wash.

10. *An Account of a singular Disease in the great Intestines.* By M. Baillie, M.D. F.R.S. Read April 5, 1796.

In this very extraordinary case a portion of the large intestines, a yard in length, was discharged by stool, which the patient survived three weeks.

11. *An Account of an uncommon Tumour formed in one of the axillary Nerves.* By E. Home, Esq. F.R.S. Read September 6, 1796.

These singular tumours take place in the centre of the nerves; they occasion considerable pain. The first which occurred was removed by Mr. J. Hunter, who took away along with it three inches of the nerve; in consequence of which the patient lost the use of her fore-finger and thumb, but the wound readily healed. In the next which Mr. Home saw in the axillary nerve, he cut through the covering of the tumour, and without much difficulty turned it out from its capsule. In this instance the person died six days after the operation. This paper concludes with the following observations:

“ In the removal of such tumours, we find, that, so far as we are justified in drawing conclusions from two instances, the taking away three inches of a nerve is productive of less violent effects than are occasioned by inflammation and supuration in the substance of the nerve for an equal extent.

“ The inflammation of a nerve, like that of a tendon, appears to affect the general system in a greater degree than would be expected, by a man unacquainted with pathology, from the little severity of the symptoms, or sensation in the part affected.”

12. *On the Use of the Application of Gastric Juice to Sores.* By John Harness, M.D. Physician to the Fleet. Read January 3, 1797.

This communication affords some strong additional testimony of the utility of the fresh gastric juice of graminivorous animals, in healing malignant and scorbutic ulcerations.

13. *The Case of a Person who was shot through the Lungs, and survived for thirty-two Years; with an Account of the Appearance of the Contents of the Thorax after Death.* By Everard Home, Esq. F.R.S.

In this case no adhesion of the pleura covering the lungs to that lining the thorax, was discovered either at the place where the ball entered, or where it made its exit, which is contrary to the conjecture formed by Mr. Hunter from experiments made on living animals. The track of the ball through the lungs was marked by an induration of their substance. The person laboured under no disease which could be attributed to this wound.

14. *An Account of the Case of a Man who had no Evacuation from the Bowels for nearly fifteen Weeks before his Death.* By M. Baillie, M.D. F.R.S. Read September 5, 1797.

The most remarkable circumstance of this case is, that “the patient’s appetite for food was, through the greater part of his illness, as good as in health; but within a fortnight of his death it failed him. He took then very little, most commonly a small quantity of wine or porter, with some toasted bread; but these were often rejected by vomiting, about a quarter of an hour after they had been swallowed.”

On dissection, this disease was found to have been produced by a very narrow stricture at the lower end of the sigmoid flexure of the colon: The fæces, of the consistence of soft mortar, were principally accumulated at the lower end of the colon; and though they had been so long retained in the intestines, were not more fetid than usual, which Dr. Baillie attributes to their being excluded from the action of the air.

15. *A Case of Rupture of the Uterus, from which the Woman recovered.* By Thomas Haden, Surgeon, at Derby. Communicated by Dr. Clarke. Read October 3, 1797.

In this case there certainly was every reason to suppose that a rupture of the uterus had taken place, from which the patient recovered without any unfavourable symptoms.

(To be continued.)

ART.

ART. VIII. *Elements of Chemistry and Natural History; to which is prefixed the Philosophy of Chemistry.* By A. F. FOURCROY. Fifth Edition, with Notes, by JOHN THOMSON, Surgeon, Edinburgh. In three volumes royal octavo. LONGMAN and REES, London. 1800. Price 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* boards.

NONE of our readers, we presume, are ignorant of the name and merits of M. Fourcroy. To all true lovers of chemical science the present translation must be acceptable, inasmuch as it contains not only the *Elements*, but the *Philosophy of Chemistry*, by the same author—enriched with copious notes by the translator, exhibiting the principal improvements and discoveries made in this science during the last twenty years. These volumes will also be found to contain frequent references to the best sources of information, relative to the various subjects on which they treat; so that the young student will be enabled thereby to prosecute his inquiries far beyond the limits of an elementary performance. It may not be improper to add, that the work before us is printed on a superior paper, with a small type: this hint will, perhaps, be received as an apology for its high price. T.

ART. IX. *Observations on the Diseases which prevailed on board a Part of his Majesty's Squadron, on the Leeward Island Station, between November 1794 and April 1796.* By LEONARD GILLESPIE, M.D. Surgeon and Agent to the Naval Hospital at Fort Royal, Martinique. Octavo. 239 pages. CUTHELL, London. 1800. Price 5*s.*

THE diseases of the army and navy have of late years engaged the attention of the most eminent practitioners. The example in this walk was first set by the late Sir John Pringle; it was then followed by Dr. Cleghorn, Dr. Lind, and Dr. Blane.

Indeed, during the present war, we may observe that a zeal

for improvement has arisen in the service, superior to what was ever before known, and the number of authors in actual service is a proof of the increasing diffusion of science.

The present volume is the production of a gentleman in an important situation. We had formerly occasion to take notice of his *Advice in the Preservation of the Health of Seamen in the West Indies*; and the present essay may perhaps be considered as a sequel to that work, being intended chiefly for the use of junior surgeons on their first arrival in the West Indies, and with a view also to warn them against improper modes of treatment in opposition to respectable authorities.

The work is introduced by an account of the diseases that occurred on board the *Majestic*, when on her voyage to the West Indies. On the state of the seamen's health he observes, that "on board the *Majestic* scarcely any serious complaint occurred during the passage; the crew of that ship had suffered in June, July, and August, proceeding from an infectious ship fever, attended with petechiæ, and of which two officers and eight or ten men died in Haslar Hospital, some of whom were affected with yellowness, the livor of the skin, black vomiting, and hæmorrhages from different parts of the body, having considerable resemblance to the epidemic fever which reigned at the same period in the West Indies. In this fever, however, which affected the French prisoners of war in the captured ships, after the 1st of June 1794, and some of the British captors, the disease was not so acute as in the West Indian epidemic; seldom being attended with a critical or fatal termination before the tenth or fourteenth day. None of the *Majestic's* crew had been affected with that fever since the month of August.

"Scurvy, so common formerly in voyages of ships of war, by having a crew of unseasoned men, we happily were exempted from." This he attributes to the now well-known specific, citric acid and sugar; and the predisposition to dis-
ease

ease on the arrival of seamen in warm climates he considers as the effect of the intemperate use of spirituous liquors and animal food.

The best preventives, therefore, are an abridgment of these articles in diet, the proper use of the cold bath, too much neglected, he observes, in warm climates, and an attention to a covering of flannel next the skin to absorb perspiration. To these leading means the proper use of antiseptics of an acescent nature in diet, which may be easily carried to sea in a dried state, and the substitution of wine instead of spirits for the men's allowance, would form a powerful assistance.

The second part of the work is prefaced by a topographical account of Fort Royal, Martinique, the chief scene of the author's practice; and from this account it appears, that the mortality in Martinique arises from the vicinity of the towns to large swamps in different directions. These, acted upon by the natural heat of the climate, cannot fail to prove a constant and fruitful source of disease; and, added to this, "the quantity of rain which falls in the course of a year in Martinico is immense; perhaps three times the number of square inches that fall in England.

"The thermometer," he informs us, "ranges between 75° and 90, seldom exceeding 92, and rarely below 80: its medium station may be taken at 85; and the variations of temperature are trifling, as indicated by this instrument, though not so to sensation."

Fort Royal, then, as appears from the description of it given, "is exposed to all the insalubrious consequences attributed by Hippocrates to cities with a southern exposure, and covered to the northward by high mountains: hence remittent and intermittent fevers are frequent here; obstructions of the liver and spleen, the consequence of them, often occur. The lower class of coloured and black people are frequently cachectic,

cachectic, affected with scorbutic callous ulcers of the legs, with considerable enlargement of the parts ; and though they may survive such complaints a number of years, are at length generally succeeded by diarrhæa, the ordinary termination of all consumptive, hydropic, and ulcerated patients, worn down by a long-continued disease, and finishing a wretched career."

Feyers and their consequences being the chief maladies of such a situation, Dr. Gillespie has entered at large into a description of them, and particularly of what he terms the *causus*, ardent, or burning fever.

" The proximate cause of this disease, in its most violent degree, would appear to be the supervening of an acute malignant inflammation of the stomach, liver, intestines, or of the head or breast, to the primary accession of fever, somewhat in the same manner as in intermittent fevers, accompanied with malignant symptoms (the *Comitutatæ* of Torti and others) depending on something peculiar to the individual : thus, in persons accustomed to the climate, temperate with regard to spirituous liquors and animal food, and using a proper regimen, the disease merely assumed the form of a remittent fever, sometimes joined with catarrhal affections, but more often with bilious excretions, terminating by diaphoresis ; and in which the use of the bark was attended by the best effects, after the first stage of the disease. Very different from this was the disease in persons neither seasoned to the climate by a former residence in hot countries, or by an abstemious regimen ; and in whom the humours were vitiated, the digestion depraved, perspiration obstructed from humidity and filth, the viscera disposed to inflammation from the abuse of spirituous liquors, and in whom terror added a powerful force to all these predisposing causes to a violent and fatal disease. In most fatal cases the symptoms fully pointed out an inflammation of one or other of the viscera, and sometimes of all the three

cavities ;

cavities; the heat, acute pain, tension, enlargement and soreness to the touch of the epigastric region, together with incessant vomiting, unquenchable thirst, and burning heat of skin, shewed that the stomach was inflamed. The smaller intestines and liver were often affected in the same way, proven by tension, pain of the right hypogastric, and umbilical regions. The dry cough, oppression at breast, sometimes pain of the side, laborious respirations, anxiety, and hoarseness of voice, often proved that the lungs were inflamed; and the flushed face, red and protruded eyes, fierce delirium, and succeeding coma, evinced an inflammation of the membranes of the brain, and of that organ itself."

From this view of the proximate cause Dr. Gillespie deduces the propriety of his method of cure, and declaims, in very strong terms, against the use of calomel, as recommended by some respectable practitioners. Among the other parts of his practice may be mentioned the *cold affusion*, if we may so term it, with lime-juice.

"The patient," he observes, "was bathed repeatedly in the day with fresh lime-juice; the head, hands, and feet in particular, were very often rubbed with a fresh lime: slices of limes were placed on the forehead; the breast and epigastric region were frequently bathed with the same; and a piece of linen wetted with lime-juice was recommended to be applied to the genitals, and kept constantly wet.

"This practice has nothing new in it; the Arabian physicians recommended similar refrigerant applications in ardent fever, which, from the climate they practised in, they must have been better acquainted with than the Greeks or Europeans. The external use of vinegar has been serviceable in the plague and other malignant diseases; and the practice now recommended is very generally used in the island of Martinico, and it is probable in most of the islands, by the native and negro inhabitants.

"It is for modern chemists to explain the method of operating
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of the acid of limes, externally employed in ardent fever. Whether the blood be destitute of a due proportion of oxygene, by the greater necessity of consumption thereof in fever, or by the bronchiæ not absorbing it, from excessive dryness, and that vital fluid is thus supplied from the citric acid applied externally; or whether the lime-juice acts simply by its refrigerant qualities, I shall not pretend to determine. It seems, however, probable that the ardent heat, tendency to dissolution of the blood, and disposition to putrescency, all of which occur so remarkably in such fevers, are obviated by the absorption of the vegetable acid, when applied externally; as when it is applied to putrid, gangrenous, and bloody ulcers, it has the most remarkable good effects in correcting the fœtor of them, restoring the local coagulability of the blood, and disposing to circumscribe the ulceration, and the casting off the sphacelated parts.

“ However lime-juice, thus applied, may act, it is certain that it was attended with the best effects, and was justly looked on as one of the most efficacious means of relief by the patient, assuaging the intense heat, alleviating in some measure the headach, and calming the restlessness and jactation which were generally present. It was found necessary occasionally to wash the hands and feet with a sponge and some cold water, in order to clear the skin of the mucilaginous part of the lime-juice remaining on it (which was found to have very soon lost its acidity,) and to cool the patient still more. When the ardent heat of skin began to diminish, which generally happened in three days; this practice of applying lime-juice was omitted; and when at any time the skin shewed a disposition to relax, and there was any appearance of perspiration, attended with alleviation of pain, restlessness, vomiting, &c. and not one of those violent symptomatic sweats, aggravating the sufferings of the patient, which sometimes, though rarely occurred, in the former case the application of refrigerants was omitted.

“ There

“ There are various applications used by the natives here to diminish intense headach in fever : the application of limes in slices to the forehead, or the smooth fleshy leaf of the cactus raquette, or prickly pear (without spines,) cut lengthways, and applied to the head, were found very beneficial; as they were when applied to the wrists and ankles.”

Besides fever, Dr. Gillespie treats of the several other diseases that occasionally appeared. His remarks are those of an attentive and judicious practitioner; and we would particularly recommend his observations (Part III. Chap. iii.) on the subject of ulcers, &c. to the perusal of young surgeons.

ART. X. *The Chemical Pocket Book ; or, Memoranda Chemica : arranged in a Compendium of Chemistry, according to the latest Discoveries ; with Bergman's Table of single elective Attractions, as improved by Dr. G. Pearson : calculated, as well for the occasional Reference of the professional Student, as to supply others with a general Knowledge of Chemistry.* By JAMES PARKINSON. Duodecimo. 229 pages. SYMONDS, London. 1800. Price 5s.

THE objects of this little manual are sufficiently expressed in the title-page. As a summary of the leading facts connected with chemistry, we have no doubt that it will be found both useful and convenient to those who only wish to acquire a general knowledge of the subject.

If Mr. Parkinson have contributed little to our stock of chemical science, he at least has the merit of compressing into a portable form the substance of what was before known. The author seems aware, however, that ample room has been left for an improved arrangement of his materials, and for a greater degree of perspicuity in some of his explanations.

V.

ART. XI. *The Lady's and Gentleman's Botanical Pocket Book; adapted to Withering's Arrangement of British Plants; intended to facilitate and promote the Study of indigenous Botany.* By WILLIAM MAVOR, L.L.D. Duodecimo. 185 pages. VERNOR and HOOD, London. 1800. Price 3s.

DR. Mavor's performance is very well adapted for the service of general readers. It is neatly executed, and probably will meet with a favourable reception among young botanical inquirers. The different classes, orders, genera, and species of plants, are introduced with blank spaces between their respective names, to be filled up by the student in his rural excursions. Z.

ART. XII. *The Medical Pocket Book: containing a short but plain Account of the Symptoms, Causes, and Methods of Cure of the Diseases incident to the human Body; including such as require surgical Treatment: together with the Virtues and Doses of medicinal Compositions and Simples. Extracted from the best Authors, and digested into alphabetical Order.* By JOHN ELIOT, M.D. Fifth edition, with additions and corrections. Duodecimo. 182 pages. JOHNSON, London. 1800. Price 2s. 6d.

AS scientific manuals and *pocket books*, under various titles, have been recently multiplied, and are eagerly purchased by medical pupils, there is great danger lest the taste for such desultory reading should degenerate into a culpable frivolity and negligence. Elementary publications of this kind may be sometimes referred to with advantage, but must not be permitted to supersede the perusal of more elaborate and complete treatises.

The editor of this work informs us, in his advertisement, that additions and corrections have been made to the present edition. We take the liberty, however, of remarking, that his alterations have not always been for the better: for example;

example ; in former editions, when treating on a *confirmed syphilis*, the author advised that “ we should either salivate, or at least keep the blood for some time highly charged with mercury : in short,” says he, “ the whole dependance must be on MERCURY.” We are concerned to find the editor of this edition not only giving a different opinion, viz. that “ we should *always stop* as soon as a slight soreness of the mouth is produced, carefully *avoiding* a salivation ;” but that he has placed a dependance on the NITROUS ACID, and other pretended specifics “ of a similar nature,” which, he tells us, “ have lately been found to remedy this disease *with as much certainty as quicksilver ! ! !*”

After the fair and complete investigation which this subject has undergone, especially in Mr. Blair's Essays, we are surprised that any medical practitioner should recommend the acids as substitutes for mercury: no man of character and experience, we are persuaded, will now trust the cure of his venereal patients to such fallacious medicines alone.

ART. XIII. *Medical Facts and Observations. Volume VIII.*

Octavo. 244 pages. CALLOW, London. Price 4s. 6d.

THE seven first volumes of this work were published before the commencement of our labours, and the favourable reception they have met with is a sufficient indication of their merit. The present volume will not detract from the reputation the editor has deservedly obtained, as will be perceived from the account we are about to give of its contents.

The publisher apologizes, in an advertisement at the beginning of the volume, for omitting the list of new publications, on account of the length of time that has passed since the last volume of the Facts appeared. But this seems unnecessary, as, besides that the place of the list is much better filled with original matter, we cannot help thinking that such catalogues

are only adapted to monthly publications. When they are deferred much longer, the books, the titles of which are recited, must be well known, and the majority of them, at least of those deserving attention, in the hands of every reader. It is three years, we observe, since the seventh volume of this miscellany was published, which we notice, as shewing that the editor was more intent on keeping up the reputation than on adding to the number of his books.

1. *A Case of Monstrosity in a Child; with physiological Remarks.* By W. Simmons, Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, London, and senior Surgeon to the Manchester Infirmary.

The parents were healthy and of a middle age. This was the woman's fifth child. Nothing particular happened during her pregnancy, or in the birth of the child, which was born healthy and strong, and continued thriving until within three months of its death. A large extraneous body, or appendix, was soon observed adhering to the coccyx, evidently the imperfect rudiments of another foetus. Its shape was irregular, but had some resemblance to the pelvis and thighs of a child; to which two distorted feet were annexed. There was also a rude appearance of a hand, with some fissures and irregularities, in a slight degree resembling some of the natural passages of the body, but not leading to any corresponding cavities. It was furnished with blood-vessels and nerves for its nourishment and increase, and covered with cutis and cuticula. It covered the nates, and expanded downward to the hams of the child. Interiorly, it consisted of a considerable mass of fat; two bones, resembling the tibia; others, forming a kind of pelvis; and an intestine, closed at each extremity, a foot in length, "containing a fluid similar in colour and consistency to the meconium found in the bowels of a new-born child."

The child had been taken to the infirmary, with the view of having this mass removed, which would have been attempted, our author says, if the general state of health at the time had permitted.

permitted. It died at two years of age, in consequence of a profuse discharge from an abscess in the groin.

“ After death, the parents consented to have the body inspected; and permitted me to take the monstrosity for a preparation.

“ As it had been thought justifiable to attempt the extirpation of it, had the child lived to a proper age, I was desirous to know how far it would have been practicable; and, if the child could have survived the operation, what chance there would have been for her recovery. Accordingly, I formed a flap as I had intended had the operation been performed during life, and then dissected down to discover the principal attachment between the two bodies. It then appeared that the union consisted merely of a ligamentous substance, which connected the monstrosity to the point of the os coccygis of the child, and might have been readily divided; but this could not be known till after death, nor the number nor size of the connecting blood-vessels. Only one artery was discovered, about the size of a crow-quill; and one nerve, of nearly equal diameter.

“ Had the child lived to undergo the operation, it is probable, therefore, that she would have recovered.

“ Nothing unusual appeared on inspecting the cavity of the thorax and abdomen, excepting in the latter a *cul de sac* that proceeded from the intestine ileum. Nor could any communication be traced between either of these cavities and the monstrosity. The swellings in the groins had been occasioned by the morbid state of the inguinal glands.

“ I believe,” the author says, “ that no instance of monstrosity similar to this is to be found on record. Baron Haller, in his elaborate work ‘*De Monstris*,’ published in the third volume of his ‘*Opuscula minora*,’ has made a large collection of facts, but he has not recorded any case in which a closed intestine was discovered that contained meconium, as in the present instance: on the contrary, he says expressly,

‘Intestina in omnibus paulo prius, aut serius conjuncta.’ Perhaps the *cul de sac* had been an abortive attempt to connect the intestines of the child with the closed intestine of the monstrosity.”

Cases of the union of two or more fœtuses in utero, are by no means uncommon. In some the fœtuses are complete, each of them being furnished with all the parts necessary for their subsistence. In these the conjunction or accretion is occasioned, ordinarily, by the inosculation of small vessels, or of the skin only; but in far the greater number, only one fœtus is complete, in many neither of them are perfect. The child with two heads, of which an account is given in the seventy-first volume of the Philosophical Transactions, and which is preserved in Dr. Coombe’s collection, is of the latter kind.

“This was the child of Elizabeth Bromfield, Jeess Court, Oxford Street. It had attained its full bulk, and died, we are told, in the birth, in consequence of the difficulty of bringing it through the pelvis. It had two heads and necks, four arms and hands, two spines, uniting at the sacrum, and terminating in one pelvis, from whence the lower extremities proceeded single; there was only one navel-string, and one male organ of generation. On opening the body there were found two thoracic cavities, two pair of lungs, two hearts, two stomachs, two sets of intestines, which, at length uniting, terminated in one rectum and anus. There was but one urinary bladder.” But Thomas Bartholin* gives an account of a man he saw at Basle in Switzerland, approaching nearer to the kind of monster here given by Mr. Simmons. The man was twenty-eight years of age when he was seen by Bartholin, which seems to have been about the year 1650. He was afterwards exhibited in this country. The twin, or monstrosity, was joined to the xiphoid cartilage of the brother: the head, breast, arms, and one leg, hung down over the
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* Cent. i. Hist. 66.

lower part of the belly of the brother, from, or through whom, it took its nourishment. The conclusion of his history is not known. But to return to Mr. Simmons's observations on the foetus described by him. The circumstance of meconium being found in the gut of the appendix, led him to examine into the nature of that fluid, with the view of determining whether it is to be considered as a mere excrementitious matter, or as a secretion to answer some important purposes while the foetus was contained in the uterus. The experiments consisted in diluting the meconium of a child just born with water, and then mixing with it portions of acid. As the water did not become green on mixing the acid, the author concludes there could be no bile contained, and it was evident, he observes, there could be no bile contained in the gut of the appendix or monster; he therefore concludes, that the meconium is a fluid secreted in the bowels of children while in utero, to keep the passage through them open, and prevent their sides from coalescing.

The case is accompanied with neat engravings, representing the appearance of the extraneous body, as attached to the child when separated, and of its internal structure.

2. *Contains a Description of a Screw Tourniquet.* By the same.

The author gives a short history of the changes the tourniquet has undergone since its first invention, and then describes the alteration he has introduced, which he thinks makes the instrument more secure, and less liable to slip, than any hitherto used. A neat engraving of the instrument is added; with a note acquainting the public they are made according to his direction, by Mr. Richardson, cutler, in Manchester.

3. *Two Cases of the successful Treatment of Wounds that have been hitherto deemed mortal.* By the same.

Having divided the internal jugular vein in the operation for removing a large tumour from the left side of the neck of a young woman, the author passed three ligatures round the vein; and taking the necessary precautions to keep the woman

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in the most perfect state of quiet that was possible, he had the satisfaction to find they retained their situation, and completely answered the purpose. "In due time," he observes, "they came away, without any disposition to hæmorrhage manifesting itself, and the parts healed in about two months. She experienced," he adds, "no morbid affection of the head from the destruction of the vessel, and the part would have healed in a much shorter time, but for a cancerous disposition shewing itself when they were nearly cicatrised; which yielded to the external application of arsenic. The tumour had so connected itself with the jugular, as to render it impracticable to remove the whole of it without dividing the vein."

The second case is of a wound of the uterus. The uterus was wounded by the trochar in the operation of tapping for an ascites. The author had tapped the woman before, and drawn off about fourteen quarts. She came to the Infirmary a second time, he says, voluntarily to be tapped, and although the fluctuation was obscure, and some suspicions were entertained of her being pregnant, yet on her positively asserting that could not be the case, and pressing to be relieved, the operation was performed. This was on the 1st of July, three months after being tapped the first time. "I was alarmed," the author says, "at finding, instead of water, there was a discharge of blood, which, on being permitted to flow to the quantity of about six ounces, ceased on withdrawing the canula." On the 26th of October following, the woman was delivered of a fine healthy girl, having suffered no inconvenience from the operation. It appears, therefore, that the woman was five months advanced in pregnancy when she was tapped the second, and upwards of two months when she was tapped the first time. This is a curious fact, and worth recording, as shewing the operation may be performed with safety in the early stages of pregnancy, if, on other accounts, it should be found to be necessary. That the uterus was wounded, no proof seems to exist; if, however, it was, this fact must

must weaken the opinion the author has so pertinaciously defended, of the inevitable fatality of the Cæsarean operation.

The further consideration of the observations contained in this interesting volume is deferred to a future Number.

ART. XIII. *Transactions of the Linnean Society. Vol. V. Quarto.*
296 pages. WHITE, London. 1800. Price 1*l.* 1*s.*

INSTITUTIONS which, like the Linnean Society, are open for the reception of detached papers on the various subjects connected with natural history, must admit some tracts of comparatively inferior importance; but by encouraging the communication of more useful essays and dissertations, which, without such repositories, would have been totally lost to the public, they demonstrate their claims to support from the liberal patrons of science. We expressed our acknowledgments and good opinion of the labours of the Linnean Society, in our review of their *Fourth* Volume; and are happy to announce the present work, as containing a valuable addition to our stock of natural knowledge. But, as it does not enter into our plan to give a copious account of publications so remotely connected with the practice of medicine, we can do little more than enumerate the papers contained in this volume.

We are here presented with thirty-one articles: viz.

1. Descriptions of some minute British Shells. By the late John Adams, Esq. F. L. S.

2. Descriptions of some marine Animals found on the Coast of Wales. By the same.

3. Observations on the economical Use of the *Ranunculus aquatilis*: with introductory Remarks on the acrimonious and poisonous Quality of some of the English Species of that Genus. By Richard Pulteney, M. D. F. R. S. and L. S.

4. Observations on preserving Specimens of Plants. By John Stackhouse, Esq. F. L. S.

5. On the Ascarides discovered in the *Pelecanus Carbo* and *P. cristatus*. By Richard Pulteney, M.D. F.R.S. and L.S.

6. Observations on the Orcheston long Grass. By Wm. George Maton, M.B. F.L.S.

7. Description of a new Species of *Mycteria*. By George Shaw, M.D. F.R.S. V.P.L.S.

8. A Supplement to the *Plantæ Eboracenses* printed in the Second Volume of these Transactions. By Robert Teesdale, Esq. F.L.S.

9. A Continuation of the History of *Tipula Tritici*, in a Letter to Thomas Marsham, Esq. Tr. L.S. By the Rev. William Kirby, F.L.S.

10. Observations upon certain Fungi, which are Parasitics of the Wheat. By the same.

11. *Calendarium Plantarum marinarum*. By Dawson Turner, Esq. F.L.S.

12. An Account of the *Onchidium*, a new Genus of the Class of Vermes, found in Bengal. By Francis Buchanan, M.D. A.L.S.

13. Remarks on some technical Terms used in Botany. By R. A. Salisbury, Esq. F.R.S. and L.S.

14. Account of a Cavern discovered on the North-west Side of the Mendip Hills in Somersetshire. By George Smith Gibbes, M.B. F.L.S.

15. Remarks on the Nature and Propagation of marine Plants. By Lieut. Col. Thomas Velley, F.L.S.

16. Description of *Sowerbæa Juncea*, a Plant of New South Wales. By James Edward Smith, M.D. F.R.S. P.L.S.

17. An Account of the Fructification of *Lycopodium denticulatum*. By Felix Avellar Brotero, Professor of Botany in the University of Coimbra, F.M.L.S.

18. Description of *Conferva umbilicata*, a new Plant, from New South Wales. By Lieut. Col. Thomas Velley, F.L.S.

19. Observations on the British Species of *Mentha*. By James Edward Smith, M.D. F.R.S. P.L.S.

20. On two Genera of Plants belonging to the natural Family of the Aurantia. By Joseph Corrêa de Serra, L.L.D. F. R. S. and L. S.

21. Descriptions of the *Mus Bursarius* and *Tubularia Magnifica*; from Drawings communicated by Major Gen. Thomas Davies, F. R. S. and L. S. By George Shaw, M.D. F. R. S. V. P. L. S.

22. Account of the *Flustra arenosa*, and some other marine Productions. By Henry Boys, Esq. F. L. S.

23. An Account of a remarkable Variety of the Beech, *Fagus sylvatica*. By Christian Henry Persoon, M.A. F.M.L.S.

24. Catalogue of some of the more rare Plants observed in a Tour through the western Counties of England, in June 1799. By Dawson Turner, Esq. F. L. S. and Mr. James Sowerby, F. L. S.

25. A new Arrangement of the Genus *Narcissus*. By A. H. Haworth, Esq. F. L. S.

26. Some Observations upon Insects that prey upon Timber, with a short History of the *Cerambyx violaceus* of Linnæus. By the Rev. William Kirby, F. L. S.

27. Description of the *Vespertilio plicatus*. By Francis Buchanan, M.D. A. L. S.

28. Descriptions of five new British Species of *Carex*. By James Edward Smith, M.D. F. R. S. P. L. S.

29. Additional Note to the Remarks on the Nature and Propagation of marine Plants. By Lieut. Col. Thomas Velley, F. L. S.

30. Additional Note to the Observations on the British Species of *Mentha*. By James Edward Smith, M.D. F. R. S. P. L. S.

31. Extracts from the Minute Book of the Linnean Society, respecting the *Ardea Gardeni*, and the *Papilio Paniscus*.

The *third* article, by Dr. Pulteney, is too interesting to be withheld from our medical readers; we therefore shall copy it entirely:

“ Both ancient and modern writers on botany, and the materia medica, agree, pretty uniformly, in attributing to many species of the genus *Ranunculus* a corrosive and poisonous quality. In several it abounds in such a degree as, when applied externally in a recent state, to excite vesications, and ulceration of the parts, frequently of a malignant and gangrenous nature; and, when taken inwardly, to prove poisonous and fatal, by inducing vomiting, inflammation of the stomach, with the usual consequences of acrid poisons. These qualities are particularly manifest in the recent plant, while in its highest vigour before flowering; and more intensely in the germen of the flower itself, and in the petals of some.

“ The poisonous species, that are indigenous, common in England, are, the *Ranunculus Flammula*, or Lesser Spearwort; *R. bulbosus*, bulbous rooted Crowfoot; *R. acris*, upright Crowfoot; *R. sceleratus*, Marsh Crowfoot; *R. arvensis*, Corn Crowfoot; and the *R. aquatilis*, or Water Crowfoot, according to the report of various authors. Of these the *Flammula*, *bulbosus*, and *sceleratus*, are judged to be the most acrimonious.

“ Before the introduction of *Cantharides*, the acrid *ranunculi* were, all in their turn, used as vesicatories; and Haller tells us*, the *R. Flammula* is still in use as such in some parts of France. Gilibert assures us†, that the *R. bulbosus* vesicates with less pain than the Flies, and has no effect on the urinary passages. He gives it therefore a decided preference as an epispastic. Other authors allow these qualities in the *ranunculi*, and that they are quicker than *Cantharides* in their vesicating effect: but say, that all these advantages are more than balanced, by the greater uncertainty of their action

* See the *Enumeratio Stirpium* and *Historia Stirpium Helvetiæ*, in which much satisfactory information is collected respecting the properties of this genus of plants; and for which the author has, with his usual candour and accuracy, quoted all his authorities.

† *Plantæ rariores Lithuanicæ*, No. 331.

on the skin, and their frequently leaving ill-conditioned ulcers, of which Murray and other writers have recorded instances*. Nevertheless the ranunculi were employed in local spasmodic complaints and in fixed pains, and not unfrequently in cataplasms to the wrists in intermitting fevers. Crowfoot is known also to have been one of the ingredients in Plunket's Epithem for Cancers.

“ The acrimony of these plants is, however, of so volatile a nature, that, even in the most virulent, it is wholly dissipated in drying; so that, in the form of hay, they appear to be harmless, and nutritive to cattle. It is also instantly expelled in decoction, probably in all the species; at least, Murray informs us, that the shepherds of Morlachia eat even the *R. sceleratus*, as a culinary plant, after boiling it: the *R. auricomus*, and, as several authors assure us, the *R. repens*, are so destitute of acrimony as to be wholly inoffensive, and even worthy of a place among oleraceous plants.

“ The ranunculi give out this quality wholly in distillation: the water of the *R. sceleratus*, by the experiments of Tilebein, as recorded in the second volume of the Chemical Annals, is acrimonious in an intense degree, and, when cold, deposits crystals which are scarcely soluble in any menstruum, and are of an inflammable nature†. The distilled water of the *R. Flammula*, or Lesser Spearwort, as we were informed by Dr. Withering, is an emetic more instantaneous, and less offensive during its action, than white vitriol; and, as if nature had furnished an antidote to poison from among poisons of its own tribe, is to be preferred in promoting the instant expulsion of deleterious substances from the stomach.

“ In the experiments of the Pan Suecus, even in the improved edition by Schreber, after the observations and renewed trials of Kalm, Gadd, Bergius, and Lastbohm, made upon horned cattle, goats, sheep, horses and swine, all the species

* Appar. Medicam. iii. 87.

† Page 331.

of ranunculi, with which trials were made, except the *R. auricomus*, were rejected by the horned cattle; and it is well known, that while our meadows and pastures are eaten bare of other vegetables, the *R. acris*, and *R. bulbosus*, which are but too plentiful, are left untouched; neither do cattle willingly eat the *R. repens*, although it is not wholly rejected by horses, sheep, and goats.

“ The *R. Flammula*, according to the above experiments, was eaten only by horses, to which animal it is there said to be very grateful; whereas the *R. auricomus*, eaten by all the rest, (except that swine choose only the roots,) was rejected by horses. The *R. sceleratus*, which is supposed to be the *Herba Sardonia* of Dioscorides, was touched by goats alone; the *R. bulbosus* only by the latter, though it is as well known in England that hogs are fond of the roots. The *R. acris* was eaten by sheep and goats; but the *R. aquatilis* is recorded as the only one rejected by all the five species of animals, on which these trials were made. It does not appear by either edition of the *Pan Suecus*, that any trials were made with *R. arvensis*; and though horned cattle and horses will eat this species greedily, (although not without subsequent injury,) yet it is known to have been highly deleterious to sheep. A notable instance of this occurred in Piedmont in the year 1786, where a number of these animals died, as it was at first supposed, of an epidemical disease; but subsequent examination discovered, that this destruction was owing to the *ranunculus arvensis*. The history of this accident is circumstantially related in the *Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Turin*, by M. Brugnon*. The herb grows luxuriantly in Piedmont, and the sheep fed with much eagerness upon it. The effects here mentioned were not immediate, but progressive; and M. Brugnon, on further investigation, was convinced they were principally

* *Memoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences, Années 1788 — 1789, à Turin.* 4to. 1790

owing to the roots of the plant : since by experiments purposely made on dogs, these animals were almost instantly killed by them. On the dissection of the sheep, all the four concoc-tive organs were found affected with erysipelatous and gangre-nous spots ; but more particularly the abomasum, which he found much more deeply ulcerated than the others ; and the mischief had extended into the smaller intestines.

“ The avidity with which sheep, horses, and cows, eat the *Ranunculus arvensis*, is, as M. Brugnon justly observes, an exception to the commonly received maxim, that herbivorous animals are, by instinct, led to reject whatever is noxious. We see frequently, that hunger will impel our domesticated cattle, especially on being first turned to grass in the spring, to eat almost all vegetables promiscuously : some of our farmers are aware of the effects of crowfoot, of which the *R. acris* and *R. bulbosus* are so common in our pastures, and by which the mouths of their cattle are frequently inflamed and blistered ; and doubtless the effects often extend much farther, and sometimes prove fatal. There can be little doubt of the same destructive consequences from other poisonous plants, in cases where the cause is little suspected.

“ M. Krapf, who instituted a set of experiments wholly confined to this genus of plants*, attributes to the *R. aquatilis* the deleterious qualities belonging to the others ; observing, that it will vesicate the skin, but it is slower in its operation than the *R. bulbosus* and *R. sceleratus*. Bishop Gunnerus also, in his *Flora Norvegica* †, tells us, that this species is not less noxious to cattle than the *R. sceleratus* : that even the goat, an animal less nice in the selection of its food than the others, leaves it wholly untouched.

“ It is well known to botanists that the *Ranunculus aquatilis* of Linnæus comprehends four species of the older writers ; and,

* C. Krapf, *Experimenta de nonnullorum Ranunculorum venenatâ Qualitate, horum externo et interno Ufu*. Viennæ, 1766. 8vo. p. 107.

† No. 646.

even Haller, and some more modern authors, still keep them separate: among whom, the late Professor Sibthorp, in his *Flora Oxoniensis*, enumerates them distinctly, under the names of 1. *R. heterophyllus*, or *R. aquatilis* Ger. em. 829. Ray Syn. 249. 2. *R. aquatilis*, or *R. aquatilis omnino tenuifolius* J. B. iii. 781. Ray Syn. 249. 3. *R. circinatus*, *R. aquaticus albus*, *circinatis tenuissime divisis foliis*, *floribus ex alis longis pediculis innixis* Pluk. alm. 311. t. 55. 2. Ray Syn. 249. and 4. *R. fluviatilis*, or *ranunculo sive polyanthemo aquatili albo affine*, *Millefolium maratriphyllum fluitans*. J. B. iii. 782. Without entering here into any disquisition relative to these distinctions of the species, I shall come to the ultimate object of these observations, by remarking, that I was lately witness to a fact, with respect to the *Ranunculus aquatilis fluviatilis*, which, after what I recollected of the character of the plant, somewhat surprised me, while it sufficiently proved, not merely the innoxious quality of this plant, but that it is nutritive to cattle, and capable of being converted to useful purposes in agricultural economy. Unless these varieties of the *R. aquatilis* Linn. be endowed with different properties, it is a proof that the experiments on this plant were not made with sufficient accuracy, or discrimination of the varieties; not sufficiently repeated on different individuals of the same species of animals; or, that in different countries or situations it is divested of its virulence. In the present instance, it is probable, the plant is rendered inert as a poison, by growing in the water; although in certain other instances moisture is thought to heighten the deleterious property of vegetables, especially in the umbelliferous tribe.

“ The fact that I have alluded to is, that in the neighbourhood of Ringwood, on the borders of the Avon, which affords this vegetable in great abundance all the year, some of the cottagers sustain their cows, and even horses, almost wholly by this plant, since the remaining part of their food is nothing more than a scanty pittance they get on the adjacent heath, which

which affords little more than Ling, Lichen, Bog-moss or Sphagnum, &c. It is usual to employ a man to collect a quantity for the day every morning, and bring it in the boat to the edge of the water, from which the cows, in the instance I saw, stood eating it with great avidity. I was indeed informed they relished it so highly, that it was unsafe to allow them more than a certain quantity; I think between twenty-five and thirty pounds each, daily; but with variation according to circumstances. The cows I saw were apparently not in a mean condition, and gave a sufficient quantity of good milk. I was told by the person whose cattle were feeding on it, that he kept five cows and one horse so entirely by this plant, and what the heath afforded, that they had not consumed more than half a ton of hay throughout the whole year; none being used, except when the river is frozen over. I examined the whole parcel, on which four cows were feeding, in the beginning of March; and found the whole consisted exclusively of the *Ranunculus fluviatilis*, without any mixture of the *Potamogeton*, *Carex*, *Sparganium*, or other aquatic plants. In summer however, it can scarcely be avoided but that there must be a mixture of some of these: but other plants are not chosen.

“ This account was confirmed to me by different persons; by whom I was further informed, that hogs are also fed with the same plant, on which they improve so well, that it is not necessary to allow them other sustenance, till it is proper to put them up to fatten.

“ This relation, while it shews how carefully experiments should be conducted before a decisive judgment on the powers of any reputedly poisonous vegetable can be formed, may induce such as were unacquainted with this fact, to adopt the use of this plant in similar situations, since it is one of the most frequent in many rivers of this kingdom. The application of it to these useful purposes will also answer a secondary

good, of tending to clear the streams of what is otherwise considered as a noxious weed ; since by its abundance in summer it is frequently seen to choke up the rivers more than any other plant, and, from slight falls of rain, contributes much to the overflowing of meadows in hay-time." X.

MEDICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Art. I. *Description and Engraving of a patent Tourniquet ; with an Account of a new Scarificator, and an Enema Machine.*
Invented by Mr. SAVIGNY, King Street, Covent Garden.

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING lately invented a tourniquet, in the construction of which I have endeavoured to combine the utmost simplicity with facility of application, and certainty of effect ; and as it has already been honoured with the most flattering opinion by many distinguished chirurgical professors, I am desirous of introducing it more generally to the knowledge of the medical world : to this end, I am induced to offer a copperplate and description to your most useful publication.

Permit me also to avail myself of this favourable opportunity of announcing two other late inventions, which have been received with decided approbation. As they have not the advantage of an engraved representation, a verbal description may fail in its attempt : I shall therefore only state briefly, that one is an apparatus with a small scarificator for making cuticular incisions, and extracting blood from contracted surfaces, or to be used as a substitute for leeches ; and the other, a portable machine for administering enemas, attended with circumstances of peculiar convenience.

Should this notice be deemed worthy your acceptance, its

Fig. 1.

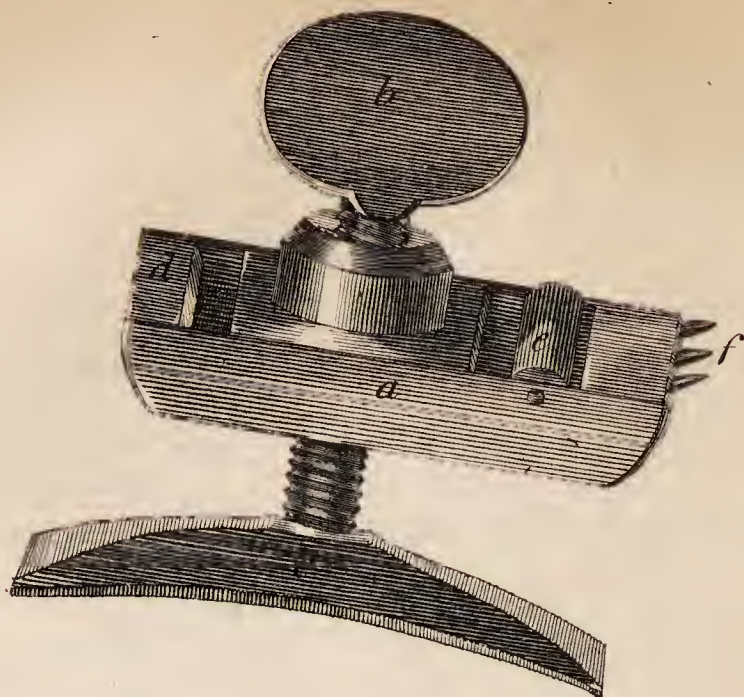


Fig. 2.

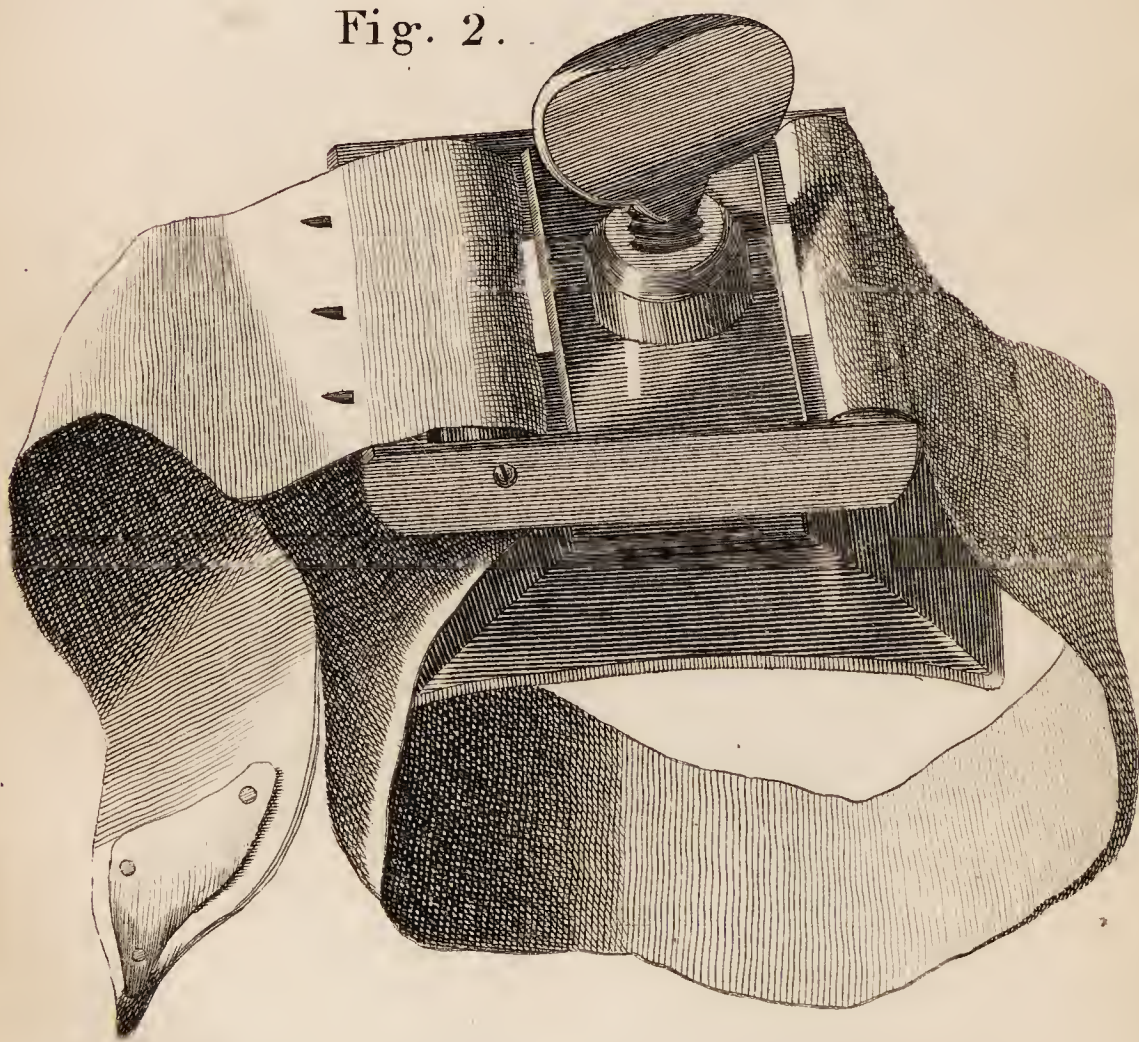
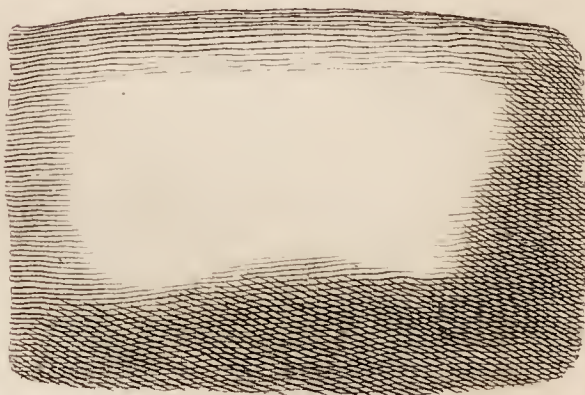


Fig. 3.



insertion in your valuable work will be considered as an important favour conferred on,

King Street, Covent Garden, Your very humble servant,

May 14, 1800. J. H. SAVIGNY.

Explanation of the Engraving of Mr. Savigny's patent Tourniquet.

Fig. 1. a. The upper plate, made of brass; the sides turned downwards to give it strength, and to form a frame for the roller: *e* between the extremity *d* and the screw, is an opening for the bandage to pass through previously to its being sewed and secured upon *d*.

b. A steel screw passing through a projection in the centre of the upper plate, *a*, and fixed by a moveable rivet, in a counter-sink, on the inferior part of *c*; so as to render it perfectly secure, and at the same time to allow it a free rotatory motion.

c. The lower plate of brass, strengthened in its centre, to receive the inferior part of the screw *b*, and to form a resistance to its action.

d. One extremity of the upper plate, round which the fixed end of the bandage is secured.

e. The roller, over which the bandage is easily drawn to any degree of stricture.

f. Three short, strong, sharp points of steel, screwed into the other extremity of the upper plate, to receive and secure the bandage when it has been extended over the roller, to the desired effect: these points are *very slightly* curved upwards, that they may more securely retain the bandage when at its utmost extent of stricture, and more easily disengage it when the instrument is to be removed.

Fig. 2 represents the instrument, of its full size, mounted; with its bandage passed over the roller, and, though of a very contracted length, sufficient to explain the nature of its action and effects: this bandage is at least one yard in length, and on its free extremity is rivetted a small triangular piece of

thin plated metal; which, by giving it a proper degree of curvature, will enable it, on application of the instrument, to pass more readily through the opening in the upper plate, between the roller and the screw.

Fig. 3. A compress of cork covered with leather, having on its flat surface, at each extremity, a loop sewed across; by which it is retained in a longitudinal position upon the bandage, and slides upon it, till fixed at any desired point.

N. B. This compress is not always necessary, as the bandage, by the power of the instrument, is of itself sufficient to stop sudden hæmorrhages from violent wounds, till surgical assistance can be obtained. In operations indeed it is indispensable, as making a more forcible and immediate compression upon the artery.

The construction of the instrument as to its use is so self-evident, that very little needs be said on this particular: when the bandage is applied round the limb, it is to be passed through the opening behind the roller, drawn over it as tight as possible, and secured by fixing it upon the three steel points; in many instances this will be found sufficient, but if in some it should not, a few turns of the screw will effectually complete the intention.

Art. 2. Remarks on Mr. Blair's Paper concerning the infectious Nature of Cow-pox, and on that of Mr. Taynton relative to the same Subject. By JOHN RING, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

IN your last Number appeared two papers, relative to the infectious nature of the cow-pox; one tending to confirm, the other to refute that idea. The importance of the subject, and the respect I entertain for Mr. Blair and Mr. Taynton, the
authors

authors of the two communications in question, induce me to trouble you with a few observations on the same subject.

Mr. Blair says, “Dr. Woodville (to whose benevolent exertions human nature must for ever stand indebted) is the only author, so far as I know, who believes the vaccine disorder, under any circumstances, is capable of infecting in the same manner as the small-pox.”

In a paper which I published last August are the following paragraphs :

‘ Since most of the foregoing observations were written, I have seen Dr. Woodville’s Second Report, confirming the opinion he expressed in the first ; and acknowledging that he has lately been much more successful in his practice, in consequence of refraining from taking matter from patients who had the disease severely,—a caution I have always observed.

‘ It has been asserted, that the cow-pox cannot be communicated but by contact ; and in the most positive manner, that it certainly cannot be communicated by means of effluvia, where there is no pustule but that of the arm. In this respect, I think, gentlemen have been rather too hasty in forming their conclusions ; since the disorder has been so short a time under their immediate care and inspection. *I have seen one instance where the disease was communicated, without a possibility of its being received by contact, and where the child, from whom the infection came, had no pustule but that on the arm ; and from good authority I have heard of another instance, where the infection was caught from one who had a considerable eruption.*

The two patients in Caroline Court, alluded to by Mr. Blair, were mine, as he has suggested. When I applied to Dr. Pearson for some vaccine matter, he complied with my request ; but, at the same time, desired he might be allowed to attend, with me, those patients who were inoculated with matter furnished by him : he therefore visited and inoculated those two patients *with me*.

The

The appearance of a considerable eruption in the two cases above referred to, and in some others, occasioned a variety of conjectures at that time; but at present, no one who has seen much of the practice with genuine cow-pock matter, can possibly entertain a doubt, that the matter was variolated by some means or other. Whether this contamination took its rise from a variolated lancet, or a variolated atmosphere, I shall not pretend to determine; having never seen the matter, nor the lancets, till the moment when the inoculation was about to be performed.

I have seen a number of persons inoculated with supposed vaccine matter, who had eruptions in a trifling degree, both in my own practice and in that of others; but the eruptions in general were not pustulous. They rather resembled the tooth-rash than the small-pox; and were neither attended with danger nor inconvenience. In some instances a small vesicle has appeared, not altogether unlike that on the arm; but without any material inflammation.

The matter I have used for six months, I was favoured with by Mr. Paytherus, by desire of Dr. Jenner; to whom I had written, requesting some of the same kind that was found so successful in his own practice.

In the first five cases, one was attended with a pustulous eruption. Since that time I have inoculated about a hundred, in none of whom varioliform pustules have appeared. I am confident the pustules were not produced by any mixture of variolous matter: but am apprehensive such a circumstance might sometimes take place; as I have had lancets sent to me to be armed with vaccine matter, having matter of a different species upon them, which, upon inquiry, proved to be variolous. Had I not discovered this fact, undeserved blame might have fallen on the new practice. I hope all practitioners will follow the method observed by many others as well as myself, and not use the same lancets for more than one kind of inoculation.

I con-

I congratulate you on the acquisition of Mr. Taynton as a correspondent : at the same time I must object to one of his assertions. After informing us, that during the last five weeks he has inoculated a great number of patients, chiefly children, but some few adults, and adding his testimony in favour of the cow-pox, to that of every other practitioner who is acquainted with the mild appearance of the disease, he makes the following remark : “ I have decidedly proved, what indeed has before been so frequently done, that the disease is *not infectious* ; having, for the sake of experiment, inoculated *only* part of a family, where none of them had ever had the small-pox.”

I have made the same experiments in a number of instances ; but by no means conclude that the disease is *not infectious*, without stronger evidence. A negative is not so easily proved. The following passage, in a letter from Dr. Jenner, first convinced me that the disorder is not contagious : “ By no means that I could devise have I been able to infect a person by the effluvia of the simple cow-pock pustule, although I have tried several. Among others, I have suffered children, two or three times in a day, to inhale by the mouth and nostrils the effluvia of pustules on the arms of others ; when the matter has been in its most active state, and the pustules punctured in several places to give it the fullest effect.”

If any additional proof be necessary to remove all doubt of the cow-pox being infectious in a state of effluvia, it may be drawn from this circumstance, that even the casual disease, when most severe, has never been suspected to be capable of infecting any person, except by contact.

These proofs are sufficient for every useful purpose : and I doubt not but this, as well as every other discussion of the subject, will tend to remove any remaining objections to the
general

general introduction of the practice. I am, with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

New Street, Hanover Square,

JOHN RING.

May 6th, 1800.

Art. 3. *Notice relating to the Cow-pock Institution ; transmitted to the Editors by an anonymous Correspondent.*

THERE is hardly a doubt remaining in the minds of practitioners in general, that the cow-pock matter has been from various causes contaminated with variolous matter; and on this account, as well as on account of the variolous matter having gained admittance into the human body previously to the vaccine, many cases have occurred in the practice of the new inoculation which were not real cow-pock*, without any blame justly due to the inoculator.

The new institution for the cow-pock inoculation merits the support of the public for several reasons, but especially for a reason assigned in the proposals: viz. *That a stock of efficacious vaccine matter, free from contamination by the small-pox, will, by this institution, be preserved for the use of the public.* Further, to secure the authenticity of the matter for inoculation, the public are hereby advised that such matter is not warranted, unless it be delivered under the seal of the institution; the impression of which consists of the figure of a cow, with the motto *Feliciores inserit*, evidently alluding to the origin of the poison, and to the discovery of the practice by accidental inoculation.

* The cases communicated to us by Mr. Blair, in our last Number, appear to have been of this spurious kind, as he himself suspected.

Art. 4. *Information relating to the Vaccine Disease.* By Mr. N. WASHBOURN, of Marlborough, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

AS a proof of the good effects that are likely to accrue from the introduction of the vaccine inoculation, I have taken the liberty of communicating the result of my observations upon the subject.

The first patient was my servant Charles Robinson, who was inoculated on Thursday the 27th of March 1800, by Mr. Henry Jenner, who was then passing through this town. Second day, the arm appeared affected: sixth day from inoculation, complained of slight pain in the axilla: eighth day, a considerable elevation of the cuticle, and much surrounding inflammation, with itching and soreness over a great part of his body, but as yet free from chills or fever: ninth day, had erythema upon his arms and thighs, similar to the eruption attending the scarlatina anginosa: eleventh day, he had taken a walk of about three miles, and returned in the evening with chills succeeded by a fever and foul tongue; but the next morning he appeared quite well.

I could relate to you many cases that were inoculated with virus taken from Robinson's arm, but I think it unnecessary, as they all terminated much in the same manner; but some of my patients did not sicken until the twelfth or fourteenth day.

Six weeks since, Robinson was inoculated with recent variolous matter: on the two subsequent days the punctured parts appeared inflamed, with a slight vesicle; but it totally disappeared on the fourth day. I remain, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

Marlborough, May 12, 1800.

N. WASHBOURN.

Art. 5. *Description of a monstrous Child.* By Mr. THOMAS GREEN, of Woburn, Bedfordshire.

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE taken the liberty of transmitting to you the following description of an instance of monstrosity. I used every endeavour to have procured the subject, with an intention to send it to Dr. Dennison, but in vain; I was not even permitted to make any other than a superficial examination of it.

In March last I was called to a healthy young woman in labour of her first child. Nothing particular occurred during the labour, excepting that a much greater quantity of the liquor amnii was discharged than I had ever witnessed; six or eight pints at least. It was a breech presentation; and immediately after the arms were extracted in the usual way, I was surprised to find that a female child, without any appearance of a head, was born. However, on examining, I found it had very imperfect vestiges of a face; the inferior maxillary bone was immoveably attached to the sternum and lower vertebræ of the neck; the mouth was large; the nose was only a small, cartilaginous, impervious protuberance; the ears were the same; and the eyes, which were very large, prominent, and without sockets, formed a point with the superior vertebra of the neck. I could not perceive any appearance either of the frontal, temporal, parietal, or occipital bones; the cuticula and rete mucosum were also wanting to a considerable breadth, from the lumbar vertebræ upwards.

This child did not respire after its birth; but the mother was certain of its moving a short time previous to it.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Woburn, 20th May 1800.

THOMAS GREEN.

Art. 6. *Mitchillean Theory defended: being an Extract from a Letter of PROFESSOR MITCHILL, of New York, to Mr. PERKINS, of London; dated Columbia College, April 3, 1800.*

I THINK the *nitric* acid is sufficiently proved to be a mixture of *three* acids in the purest form in which it is obtained by chemists. First, There is a quantity of sea salt mingled with the purest saltpetre, of which it is rarely or never divested. This affords muriatic acid, which comes over first in the distillation, and mingles with the product in the receiver. The existence of this acid is proved by adding nitrate of silver, which is immediately rendered turbid, and precipitated in a white mucilaginous sediment.

Secondly, A portion of the sulphuric acid employed to decompose the nitre is volatilized by the heat, and rises in vapour too; and thus a portion of sulphureous acid is blended with the distilled spirit in the receiver. This is proved by adding nitrate or acetate of lead, which falls down in the form of the sulphate of lead. These precipitates are formed in all the forms and samples of nitrous acid that I ever saw.

Thirdly, It being known that the sulphuric and septic acids are miscible with each other, it must often happen that they combine *before* the mixture meets with potass to neutralize it.

Fourthly, As it is equally well established that septic and muriatic acids will enter into union, it follows, that those two *very commonly indeed* are blended together *before* they are connected with the fixed vegetable alkali: it is therefore ordinarily impossible to procure one drop of pure and naked septic acid, by any decomposition of nitre that can be instituted. The acid obtained always an *aqua regia*, or some such thing; and the assertion that *aqua fortis* dissolves silver, and *aqua regia* gold, is not correct. Both these acids are modifications of *aqua regia*; or, in other words, mixtures of various things with the original acid of putrefaction.

Fifthly, Such being the constitution of nitrous acid, the

nitric acid must be equally a mixture or farrago of things; and of course is nitrous air, nitrous acid vapour, nitrous oxyd, and every thing of the sort procured by art or by the process in the laboratory. I wish the gentlemen who prescribe and publish so much about these substances, would consider a little more attentively the composition of the things they employed. We should then have less contradiction and obscurity on the subject.

Sixthly, You may rely on it, therefore, that the *analysis* of *nitrous acid* into *azote* and oxygen is not correct. *There never has been such a pure specimen of nitrous acid in the world* obtained by distillation from saltpetre. I wish that the true composition of these forms and mixtures of septic acid might be properly inquired into and understood.

Yours, with highest consideration and regard,

SAMUEL LATHAM MITCHILL.

Art. 7. *History of an Empyema of the Mediastinum cured by trepanning the Sternum: with Observations by the EDITORS.*

THE original from which this case has been abridged is written in Latin: a few copies only being printed, and distributed to the author's friends, we are happy in the opportunity afforded us of laying it before our readers.

The subject of the case, Frederick Lewis Æmilius Orstein, of Schwerin, about twenty-five years of age, on being thrown from his horse, received a violent blow on the middle of the sternum. By the care of his physician, aided by a good constitution, he was in a little time so far relieved from the pain and other immediate consequences of the accident, as to be able to return to his studies. For which purpose he went to Altorf, and being particularly addicted to mathematics and practical mechanics, much of his time was employed in constructing the instruments necessary for his experiments. As

this required considerable labour and application, the complaint in his breast, which had been quieted, but not entirely subdued, returned; so that in a little time, on attempting to raise a weight, or ride on horseback, he was affected with an acute pain in that part of the sternum where the blow had been received.

He began to lose his flesh and strength, to have profuse sweats in the night, which burst out also on taking the least exercise in the day-time. He had a sense of weight, with pain, more or less acute, in the middle of the breast; anxiety at the heart; and, on swallowing any thing that was cold, a check or obstacle to its descent was perceived in a part of the gullet. He was frequently awakened suddenly from his sleep by a sense of suffocation: a distressing cough at length attended; by which, with much exertion, a small quantity of purulent matter was voided, so offensive as to occasion a nausea and disposition to vomit.

A suitable regimen was directed, and various medicines ordered, by D. VOGEL, Professor of Medicine at Altorf, under whose care he was placed. But although the utmost attention was paid by the patient to the directions of his physician, the fever and other hectic symptoms continued increasing. Finding no relief obtained by medicine, and judging, from the circumstances of the case, that matter was already formed interiorly, which, unless speedily removed, might erode and destroy the sternum, and ultimately occasion the death of the patient, the Professor, after apprizing him of his danger, proposed trepanning the sternum, as the only mode by which the matter could be discharged and the threatened danger obviated. To this he readily consented.

The operation was performed in the presence of the Rev. D. GABLARO, an intimate friend to the patient, the writer of the case, with other pupils, being assistants to the surgeon. A sufficient portion of that part of the sternum where the pain had been felt being laid bare, for the application of the
trepan,

trepan, the surface of the bone was found, on touching it with the fingers, to be rough; and blood issued from the small divided arteries, in such quantities as to prevent the surgeon from proceeding in the operation. The wound was, therefore, filled with dry lint, confined by proper bandages, to stop the effusion. At the end of three hours the compresses were removed; but the blood, which had been restrained by the lint, flowed freely again on its removal; neither could it be checked by such styptics as it was thought prudent to use.

The surgeon now proceeded slowly and cautiously in the operation, avoiding, as much as possible, all pressure on the sternum, as well to prevent breaking that bone, which was found to be tender and carious, as on account of the sense of suffocation the patient experienced whenever it was depressed. The blood also, which continued flowing from the mouths of the divided arteries, and clogged the teeth of the instrument, contributed to make the operation still more fatiguing and embarrassing. The instrument having at length every where passed through the bone, which had separated or broken into two parts during the operation, on attempting to raise and take them out, one of the portions, being about a third of the piece embraced by the trepan, remained adhering to the membrane lining the inner surface of the sternum, which had acquired the thickness and consistence of parchment. No pus having appeared, although an opening sufficiently large was now made, the operator passed his little finger under the sternum, with a view of examining the state of the parts: but no particular information being obtained from this inquiry, the wound was dressed; and the patient, who had borne the operation with great courage, holding a mirror so placed during the performance of it as to be able to see the wound, was put to bed.

At first he seemed relieved by the operation; but at the end of four hours he was affected with anxiety at the precordia, and palpitation of the heart, so violent as to excite considerable

derable apprehensions for his safety. His pulse was quick and interrupted, and his extremities were beginning to be cold. The bandage and dressings being removed, the motion of the anterior auricle of the heart was sensibly seen, and even heard. A cordial was administered, and a liniment, containing a portion of the tincture of opium, was rubbed over the region of the heart, whereby the commotion being in some degree appeased, the dressings were again applied to prevent the further ingress of air into the cavity; to which, in part, these alarming symptoms were supposed to have owed their origin. The patient passed the night in tolerable ease, having obtained some sleep, and in the morning was found to be much refreshed and relieved. The dressings, which were now removed, were found covered with pus, which flowed also freely from the cavity of the mediastinum, into which the operator had introduced his finger. For some time after, the discharge was so considerable, that it became necessary to renew the dressings several times in the day. An injection was thrown into the cavity with a view to discover its extent, but no other sinus than that which had been examined was found. The discharge, which at first was so acrid as to excoriate the neighbouring parts, becoming more mild, and diminishing in quantity, granulations at length appeared, which by degrees filled up the hollow in the mediastinum. The opening in the bone also, in time, became filled with a fleshy substance, and at the end of six weeks the wound was completely cicatrised. The fever and other hectic symptoms, which began to diminish from the time the operation was performed, had now completely left the patient, who recovered his usual health and strength, except that on going up a steep hill he thinks he perceives his breathing more difficult than in such situations it had been before the accident.

The operation for the empyema, which usually consists in making an opening between two of the ribs, to let out matter confined within the cavity of the thorax, although de-

scribed

scribed by most authors who have written on the general practice of surgery, is yet but rarely performed. Mr. Sharp, in his Treatise on the Operations of Surgery, dissuades from it *in toto*: and although, in his Critical Inquiry, which was published ten years after the Treatise, viz. in the year 1750, he speaks more favourably of it, admitting the utility, and even the necessity of performing it in some cases; yet he does not appear to have ever witnessed the operation. “I am now persuaded,” he says, p. 230, “there are some abscesses, not only of the pleura and mediastinum, but of the lungs themselves, which empty their matter into the thorax or the diaphragm; where accumulating, it at length proves fatal for want of a discharge; or if some of it is carried off by the trachea, the lodgment of the remainder produces the same event, though more slowly. It is in such circumstances as these,” he adds, “the operation is advisable; and where, in all probability, the evacuation would prove equally successful with those discharges that are wrought by nature,” &c. Mr. Sharp then delineates the symptoms and circumstances rendering the operation necessary, and describes the method of performing it. In all this, however, he had been anticipated by Heister. Columbus and Caspar Hoffman affirm, that matter lodged within the duplicature of the mediastinum may be safely evacuated by perforating the sternum. Heister also describes the operation for trepanning this bone: “Whenever it shall appear,” says he, “that there is a collection of matter under the sternum, or within the duplicature of the mediastinum, there is no way by which it may be discharged but by perforating that bone.” Petit observes, “If after a fracture of the sternum, pain in the part should continue for a long time, and increase, an abscess is concealed under the bone; and if the matter be not discharged, it will erode the sternum.” Dionis tells us, he once saw the operation performed; “but the patient died soon after.”

We have added these short notices, with the view of drawing

ing the attention of our readers to this case, which seems exceedingly deserving consideration, not only as rarely occurring, but on account of the importance of the operation, and of the success with which it was performed.

Art. 8. *A Note from PHILO-MEDICUS, on the antivenereal Medicines lately recommended.*

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

AS you occasionally give place to miscellaneous observations on subjects connected with medicine, permit me to offer you the following reflections, suggested by a communication inserted in your last Number but one.

The pertinacity with which Dr. Beddoes continues to support the efficacy of the acids in curing syphilis, would surprise any observer unaware of the reluctance with which a mind ambitious of professional reputation relinquishes a point—which, had it been established, would not only have procured to the publisher of it in this country well-merited renown, but have entitled him to be justly considered as a benefactor to the human race.

In opposition to the private, and therefore limited, experience of a few individuals, I would state the conclusions formed in almost every great hospital in the metropolis. In a majority of these, consistent with the knowledge of the present writer, and probably in all of them, the acids have been tried with the most candid and unprejudiced wishes for their success. The respectable medical characters who have the care of these truly charitable institutions, not standing in need of that notoriety which is obtained by constantly obtruding the name of an author on the public, content themselves with knowing that they have neglected no remedies proposed, from whatever quarter, that seemed likely to be of

use to the public,—and with satisfying the minds of their pupils, in respect to the real value of such remedies. In none of these experiments have the acids been found to remove, nor scarcely to arrest the progress of unequivocal venereal symptoms. Dr. Trotter has lately published to the world, that several of those cases which were said to have been *cured* in Plymouth Hospital have relapsed !

The result then of our numerous trials with the acids seems to be, that they have been usefully employed in some doubtful cases, or when the constitution had been previously saturated, perhaps injured, by a long-continued course of mercury ; and even in these cases, under the practice of a few private individuals, rather than in that of our public hospitals. How far difference of temperature may have contributed to the success with which these medicines are said to have been administered in the East Indies, I shall not determine ; nor would it be proper to reason upon it, until the fact shall be established by a greater variety of authentic evidence than we at present have before us.

I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.

London, May 20, 1800.

PHILO-MEDICUS.

Art. 9. *Monthly Catalogue of new and intended Publications.*

NEW BRITISH PUBLICATIONS.

1. **T**RANSACTIONS of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Vol. V. Part I. Quarto. Edinburgh, Creech. 1800. Price 5s.

2. Observations on a Tour through the Highlands and Part of the western Isles of Scotland, particularly Staffa and Icolmkil : containing a Description of the Country, Manners, and Customs of the Inhabitants, natural Curiosities, Antiquities, Mineralogy, Botany, natural Advantages, proposed Improvements, and an Account of the State of Manufactures, Agriculture,

Agriculture, Fisheries, political Economy, local History and Biography. To which are added, a Description of the Falls of the Clyde, of the Country round Moffat, and an Analysis of its mineral Waters. By T. GARNETT, M.D. &c. Two volumes, quarto. Illustrated by a map and 54 plates. London, Cadell and Davies. 1800. Price 2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

3. Elements of Chemistry, in a new systematic Order, containing all the modern Discoveries. Illustrated by thirteen copper-plates, by Mr. Lavoisier. Translated from the French by ROBERT KERR, F.R. and A.S.S. Edin. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh. Fourth edition, with notes, tables, and considerable additions. Edinburgh, Creech. Octavo. 592 pages. 1799. Price 9*s.*

4. Gymnastics for Youth; or, A practical Guide to healthful and amusing Exercises. For the Use of Schools. An Essay towards the necessary Improvement of Education, chiefly as it relates to the Body; freely translated from the German of C. G. SALZMANN, Master of the Academy at Schnepfenthal, and Author of Elements of Morality. Illustrated with copper-plates. London, Johnson. Octavo. 433 pages. 1800. Price 9*s.*

5. Observations on the Formation and Uses of the natural Frog of the Horse; with a Description of a Patent artificial Frog, to be applied in the Stable, adapted to common Shoes, and to the Frogs of all Horses, to prevent and cure contracted Hoofs, Thrushes, Cankers, and Sandcracks. By EDWARD COLEMAN, Professor of the Veterinary College, &c. London, Johnson. Octavo. Price 1*s.* 6*d.*

6. Cursory Account of the various Methods of shoeing Horses, hitherto practised; with incidental Observations. By WILLIAM MOORCROFT. With Plates. London, Nicol. Octavo. Price 2*s.*

7. Communications to the Board of Agriculture, on Subjects relative to the Husbandry and internal Improvement of

the Country. Vol. II. With Plates. London, Nicol. Quarto. Price 1*l.* 1*s.*

8. An historical and practical Essay on the Culture and Commerce of Tobacco. By WILLIAM TATHAM. With Plates. London, Vernor and Hood. Octavo. Price 7*s.*

9. Observations on the Effects of various Articles of the Materia Medica in the Cure of Lues Venerea: illustrated with Cases. By JOHN PEARSON, Senior Surgeon of the Lock Hospital, &c. London, Callow. Octavo. 188 pages. 1800. Price 4*s.* 6*d.*

10. A Memorial addressed to the Honourable the Directors of the East India Company, containing practical Observations respecting the Treatment of Fevers in the East and West Indies, and America; with a short Explanation of the Doctrine of sol-lunar Influence. By FRANCIS BALFOUR, M.D. Senior Head Surgeon in Bengal. London, Lloyd. Octavo. Price 2*s.* 6*d.*

NEW FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

11. WILLIAM BLAIR, Versuche ueber die Venerische Krankheit und die sie begleitende Zufaelle, erlaeutert durch verschiedene Krankengeschichten. Erster Versuch: Erster Theil. Aus dem Englischen uebersetzt, von D. C. A. STRUVE in Goerlitz. Octavo. Richter, Altenburgh. 1799.

12. Handbuch zur Kenntniss, &c. A Compendium, containing the Knowledge and Cure of the internal Diseases incident to the human Body, derived principally from original Observations and Experience. By Dr. J. C. STARCK, &c. Octavo. Pages 714. (2 rixd. 4 gr.) Jena, Göpferdt.

13. Anleitung zum Austopfen, &c. Instructions for stuffing and preserving the Coats of Birds and mammillary Animals: collected from his own Experience as well as that of others expert in this Branch of Natural History. By GEORGE PRISTORIUS. Octavo. Pages 206. (14 gr.) Darmstadt, Heyer.

14. Bibliothek für die Medicin, &c. A Library on Subjects of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery. By a Society of
literary

literary Men : edited by F. ARNEMANN, Professor at Göttingen. Vol. I. and II. Octavo. Göttingen, Dietrich.

15. Abhandlung über die Durchbohrung des Brustbeins. A Treatise on the Perforation of the Sternum. Translated from the Latin, with a short Appendix. By J. G. KRAMER. Octavo. Pages 72. Marburg Academy.

16. Archiv. für die Physiologie. The Physiological Repository. By J. C. REIL, Professor at Halle. Vol. III. Octavo. Pages 530. With four plates. Halle, Curt.

17. T. Heineker, Ideen und Beobachtungen über den thierischen Magnetismus und dessen Anwendung. Ideas and Observations on Animal Magnetism, and its Application. Octavo. Bremen. 1800. Imported by GEISWEILER and ESCHER.

INTENDED PUBLICATIONS.

18. KLAPROTH's Beytraege zur Chemischen Kenntniss der Mineral-Koerper is translating into English, and will be published by Messrs. Cadell and Davies, London.

19. Dr. NISBET is said to be finishing his Clinical Guide, by a Fourth Volume, which will contain the treatment and diseases of infancy and childhood.

20. A general Clinical Pharmacopœia, or the Principles of Prescription, is also in the press. By Dr. NISBET.

21. Speedily will be published, by John Cuthell, in two volumes 8vo. illustrated with fifteen plates, a Manual of a Course of Chemistry, or a Series of the Experiments and Illustrations which ought to form a complete Course of that Science. Translated from the French of E. I. B. BOUILLON-LA-GRANGE, Professor in the central Schools of Paris, and in the School of Pharmacy; Member in the Philomatic Society and of the Medical Society of Paris, &c. &c.

22. Dr. GARNET, Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry at the Royal Institution, has collected a mass of materials for an History of Chemistry, which he will arrange and publish with all convenient dispatch.

23. Dr. PRIESTLEY is preparing to lay before the public a Series of Experiments, in order to appreciate the new chemical doctrines.

24. Mr. JAMES CHRISTIE intends publishing shortly an Essay on the Nature and Cure of an epidemic Fever, combined more or less with Pneumonia, as it happened of late among the Troops of the Line.

25. A Pocket Herbal; containing a List of medicinal Plants, their Virtues, Doses, &c. none being admitted but such whose Efficacy in the Diseases for which they are prescribed has been experienced in the Course of forty Years successful Practice; with a few other Remedies and Directions for the Management of an Infant in Teething, Rickets, Hooping-cough, King's-evil; and Remarks on Bathing. By JOHN CHAMBERS, M.D. East Dereham, Norfolk.

26. A new work, entitled the Edinburgh Practice of Physic and Surgery, is in forwardness: It is to be preceded by an Abstract of the Theory of Medicine and the Nosology of Cullen; and will include five hundred formulæ, from the books of several London Hospitals.

27. Mr. MOORCROFT is about to publish an interesting volume on the Horse's Foot, &c.

28. A Second Volume of Communications from the Board of Agriculture is nearly completed.

29. A new journal is set on foot at Paris, entitled *Annales des Arts et Manufactures, ou Mémoires Technologiques sur les Decouvertes modernes*, &c.

30. The Second Volume of the Archives of Northern Medicine and Natural History is in progress; and is destined to exhibit the state of medical philosophy in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and the northern part of Germany.

. Want of room has obliged us to omit the greater part of our List of new *Foreign Publications*. They will be given next month.

Art. 10. *Answers to Readers and Correspondents.*

TO SCRUTATOR'S various questions, we reply,

1. That the new Latin edition of Sauvages' Nosology, announced on the cover of our Ninth Number, may be had by applying to Mr. GEISWEILER, German bookseller, No. 42 Parliament Street.

2. If Scrutator will take the trouble to examine our present and two last Numbers, he will then find *twelve additional* pages added, and the *size* of them enlarged, agreeably to our promise. We are greatly concerned at having been obliged to increase the price also; but the expense of paper and printing having been enhanced in a much greater proportion than we could bear, will apologize for us to our real friends. The advance we have made, to *Two Shillings each Number*, does not repay us for the extra charges we have sustained.

3. To his questions whether any honorary qualification is necessary previous to an examination at the College of Physicians? Whether permissi and licentiates mean the same order or class of physicians, &c. we answer, Persons must have graduated at some university or other prior to their being examined as licentiates or permissi; and that the term "Member of the College" is assumed by some candidates, although, as it should seem from a late determination in the King's Bench, not with strict propriety. Candidates are persons who, having graduated at Cambridge or Oxford, are under examination for a fellowship in the College.

4. The remainder of his queries being on subjects concerning which, he rightly observes, opinions may differ, we shall only reply, That most of our friends wish the MEDICAL CORRESPONDENCE, which he thinks occupies too large a portion of our miscellany, to be still more extended. We shall, however, thankfully receive the intimations of our numerous readers, and endeavour to profit by their obliging remarks, so as to make our work more and more acceptable to

the profession in general. At present we are doubtful whether or not the *Current Price of Drugs* be a subject of importance enough to be noticed regularly.

5. In reply to PHILO-MEDICUS, we inform him that Ploucquet's *Initia Bibl. Med. Pract. et Chir.* has been imported by GEISWEILER, No. 42 Parliament Street; of whom (or of ESCHER, No. 14 Gerard Street) most of the foreign books, especially the German and Latin, which are noticed in our Review, may be obtained at a reasonable price. DE BOFFE, of Gerard Street, and DULAU, of Soho Square, may be applied to for French publications.

6. A Correspondent inquires, what is the English name of the *semen cavadilla* or *sabadilli*? We beg leave to inform him that it has no proper English name; but is the produce of a plant well known in Mexico. (Vide SCHENDUS VAN DER BECK, *Append. ad A. N. C.* vol. i. p. 120.) The inhabitants of Brazil likewise use it instead of tobacco; or, bruised with lard, it is applied to destroy vermin in their hair. It has also been long employed internally in different parts of Europe, as an anthelmintic. Our Twelfth Number, pp. 576, &c. contains an article on the utility of cavadilla seeds as a vermifuge, by Professor LOEFLER, of Altona.

7. We intend, as early as possible, to comply with the request of several readers, who desire us to lay before them a *concise* account of the case in which the Cæsarean operation was performed at the Manchester Lying-in Hospital. We have just received an additional document relating to this subject.

* * * The Engraving of Mr. SAVIGNY's patent Tourniquet is to face the 311th Page.

ERRATUM.

In the present Number, page 282, line 3, for *mode* read *model*.

THE
LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW
AND
MAGAZINE.

VOL. III. N° XVI. JUNE MDCCC.

ANALYSIS OF BOOKS.

ART. I. *Observations on the Effects of various Articles of the Materia Medica, in the Cure of the Lues Venerea: illustrated with Cases.* By JOHN PEARSON, Senior Surgeon of the Lock Hospital and Asylum, and the Public Dispensary; Reader on the Principles and Practice of Surgery. Octavo. 188 pages. CALLOW, London. 1800. Price 4s. 6d.

THE author of this publication has undertaken the laudable task of dispelling those uncertainties in which some important practical questions relating to the lues venerea have been hitherto involved: he endeavours to estimate the virtues of several medicines which have been recommended for the cure of that disease, in its various stages; and, from the degree of attention which he has given to this subject, we doubt not that our readers will be gratified with the following epitome of his observations.

After a copious and well-written introduction, containing remarks on "the nature of that evidence upon which many revolutions in the mode of treating lues venerea have been either attempted or actually brought about," the author enters into the consideration of the antivenereal properties of *guaiacum wood*. He observes that it has now been unequivocally proved inadequate to the purposes for which our predecessors employed it; although some advantages may nevertheless be derived from its use, in the form of a decoction. "It commonly excites a grateful sensation of warmth in the stomach; it gives a sense of dryness to the mouth, and creates thirst; it also increases the natural temperature of the skin, and renders the pulse more frequent. If the patient drink the decoction made warm, and lie in bed, it generally proves moderately sudorific; and this effect may be heightened as much as we please, by employing the hot bath, the vapour bath, antimonials combined with opium, or the pulvis ipecacuanhæ compositus. When the decoction has been continued during ten or twelve days, in the quantity of four pints each day, the patient often complains of its producing the heart-burn, accompanied with flatulence; and he is usually costive during the whole course. If the person expose himself freely to the air while he is taking this medicine, the secretion of urine will be augmented, but no sensible alteration will take place in the state of the skin.

"When I have exhibited the decoction of *guaiacum* in pains of the bones, as they are called, confining the patient at the same time to the bed, and enjoining a diet consisting of fluids only, I have rarely seen any beneficial consequences result from the use of it, except where it acted as a sudorific; and, in this respect, I think its qualities manifestly inferior to antimony, or volatile alkali. In several instances, after persisting in a course of it during four or five weeks, I have not gained any material advantage; and I have remarked, that when the dolores ostocopi were not connected with some morbid alteration of the structure of a part, this medicine

was

was of little avail. When the strength and vigour has been reduced by a successful mercurial course, with confinement to the house, and where a thickened state of the ligaments, or the periosteum, remains, or where there are foul indolent ulcers, these sores will often heal, and the enlarged membranes will subside, during the administration of this decoction.

“ The decoction of guaiacum will often suspend the progress of certain secondary symptoms of lues venerea, for a short time; such as, ulcers of the tonsils, venereal eruptions, and even nodes; but I never saw one single instance in which the powers of this medicine eradicated the venereal virus. It has been recommended by many people, to combine guaiacum with mercury, with the intention of improving the specific powers, and of counteracting the injurious effects of that mineral. The advantages to be derived from this compound mode of treatment are by no means well established; for guaiacum is certainly no antidote against syphilis; nor have any proofs been given to the public of its meliorating the action of mercury. When the decoction is given during the mercurial course, it sometimes seems to improve the health; but, as it is very liable to produce complaints in the stomach and bowels, the palpable inconveniencies commonly surpass the uncertain advantages connected with it; and, as no previous course of the decoction renders the disease milder, nor authorizes us to rest satisfied with a smaller quantity of mercury than usual, it will seldom happen, that a satisfactory reason can be assigned, for giving the two medicines to a patient at the same time. In concluding this chapter, I would farther remark, that I have given the decoction of guaiacum, with the best effects, to a great number of patients, in cutaneous diseases, in the ozæna, and in scrophulous affections of the membranes and ligaments; and it appears to me that it is equally efficacious in such morbid alterations, which are not at all connected with the lues venerea, nor with the mode of

treating it, as in those cases for which it has been the most highly celebrated."

Mr. P. next treats of the *radix Chinæ*; and allows, that "it possesses few, or perhaps no useful medicinal qualities at all." He suggests, "that the eager introduction of the China root, at a season when guaiacum enjoyed the highest reputation as an antidote against syphilis, may seem to afford something like a presumption, that the latter vegetable did not possess the entire confidence of those who employed it. Without insisting upon an argument of this kind, I shall only observe, that this circumstance, along with a multitude of similar incidents, may be fairly resolved into that fickleness, caprice, or love of novelty, which exercise a more powerful influence over the determinations and actions of the greater part of mankind, than a regard either to truth or utility."

Of the *sarsaparilla* root, he asserts "that it has not the power of curing any one form of the lues venerea;" and, in confirmation of this opinion, he adduces the authority of the late Mr. Bromfeild, who, as well as himself, employed it in numerous cases at the Lock Hospital. "If the *sarsaparilla* root be a genuine antidote against the syphilitic virus, it ought to cure the disease when administered alone; but, if no direct proof can be adduced of its being equal to this, any arguments founded on histories where mercury had been previously given, or where both the medicines were administered at the same time, must be ambiguous and undecisive."

The author, however, admits that after a proper mercurial course, nocturnal pains, swellings of the joints, nodes of the periosteum, caries of the bones, hectic symptoms, and atrophy, have been relieved by this medicine; and, even in some cases where the syphilitic poison has not been destroyed by mercury, a temporary suspension of the symptoms has been obtained by its free exhibition.

As to the use of *mezerium*, *walnuts*, *opium*, *Peruvian bark*, *picuta*, *sassafras*, *juniper*, *bardana*, *saponaria*, *dulcamara*, *lobelia*,

lia, and *astragalus*, Mr. P. in like manner observes that no satisfactory evidence exists of their competency to eradicate the lues venerea, whether given singly or combined; although each of them may be administered with advantage in certain *sequelæ* of this disease, where the farther administration of mercury would be injurious.

Monsieur Peyrilhe, above twenty years ago, extolled the antiveneral effects of *volatile alkali*; and recommended it as more certain than mercury, without injuring the health of those who took it. After numerous experiments, however, we now find it can be no more depended on for a radical cure, than the means formerly proposed as substitutes for mercury. “I have given the *ammonia preparata*,” says the author, “in the quantity of from two drachms to half an ounce every day, to patients afflicted with venereal pains and nodes, (which are the very cases in which M. Peyrilhe maintains that it is the most efficacious,) but the advantages have been merely temporary. I have ordered the diseased person to lie constantly in bed, and to drink plentifully of a decoction of guaiacum, at the same time; yet, under these favourable circumstances, although some relief was obtained for the space of ten days or a fortnight, new symptoms always made their appearance, and those for which the medicine was given, never failed to increase, during the time of employing it.

“I meet with some instances every year, of nodes of the periosteum, situated on the tibia, and sometimes on the bones of the upper extremities, accompanied with much pain, disturbing the sleep, and impeding the motion of the limb, but which are nevertheless quite unconnected with syphilis. These tumours generally yield to the application of blistering plasters, conjoined with the use of sudorific medicines. I have often given the volatile alkali to such patients, with evident advantage; and I have seen effects equally beneficial produced by guaiacum, and by the decoctum lignorum. Nor is it at
all

all extraordinary, that stimulating medicines and irritating applications should prove serviceable in reducing the tumefactions I have described, since they commonly occur in patients of a scrophulous habit of body."

Mr. P. has given the *muriated barytes* with great advantage when he could not positively determine whether the case were venereal or not, and where the disease afterwards manifested itself by unequivocal symptoms; he has also found this medicine beneficial, by improving the general health, invigorating the stomach, and disposing ill-conditioned ulcers to heal; but its effects, he says, are very circumscribed and uncertain "for the cure of any disease."

We next come to the author's observations on *certain preparations of mercury*. "The superior efficacy of mercury, as the genuine antidote of syphilis, is sanctioned by the experience of three hundred years; and what is a circumstance deserving of consideration, not one medicine besides, derived from the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom, has maintained its credit with men actually employed in extensive practice, during a tenth part of that period. Perhaps, it would not be rash to assert, that no other medicine has maintained a general good reputation, as a specific against the venereal disease, beyond the lifetime of its first proposer.

"Men may amuse themselves by declaiming against mercury, as an uncertain remedy; they may utter querulous details of its baneful effects, and retail tragical stories of its malignant influence on the body and mind of those who use it: but surely all this turbulent eloquence may be directed with equal advantage, not only against every potent article of the materia medica, but against the very aliment by which we are sustained.

"Almost every department of physical science contains propositions which require exceptions, or against which objections may be brought that scarcely admit of a satisfactory solution. Yet, notwithstanding these, philosophers do not
suppose

suppose it necessary to abandon duly verified axioms, because a few phenomena, not perfectly understood, seem to militate against them.

“ He who shall discard all general rules, because they admit exceptions, ought likewise, for the sake of consistency, to renounce all science, because human knowledge is fallible and imperfect.

“ My opportunities of administering mercury have not extended to less than twenty thousand cases ; and I feel myself fully authorized to assert, that it is a remedy always to be confided in, under every form of lues venerea ; and, where we have only that one disease to contend with, that it is a certain antidote, and as safe in its operation as any other active medicine, drawn from the vegetable or mineral kingdom. Let me not be misunderstood here, as if I meant to say that it is a certain and safe remedy in the hands of any one who undertakes to dispense it. Quite the contrary :— for a multitude of indisputable proofs might be adduced, that ignorance and error often render it one of the most precarious and mischievous medicines in use.”

In writing on the comparative merits of *hydrargyrus muria-*
tus, Mr. P. adduces a great body of evidence in its favour ; but he remarks, nevertheless, that, so far from being entitled to superior claims as an antivenereal remedy, “ there is no man in this country who has any large share of reputation to lose, who would venture to stake his character upon the certain efficacy of this mercurial preparation alone, where it would have to contend with the secondary symptoms of the lues venerea.” Mr. Bromfeild, Mr. Gataker, and others, found this preparation generally insufficient in cases of a confirmed syphilis. Mr. P. in comparing the various and inconsistent accounts of different writers on this subject, makes due allowance for diversity of climate, modes of living, peculiarity of temperament, &c. ; “ but,” says he, “ when every fair deduction and qualification has been admitted, so
much

much direct contradiction will nevertheless remain, that any attempt to reconcile the jarring reports we have recited, would be absurd and impracticable.

“ It were desirable to arrive at something definitive, upon a question of such importance as that under discussion; yet it would savour too much of arrogance, for any individual to presume that his opinion could be sufficient to make the balance preponderate. I shall therefore avoid the endless and unsatisfactory mode of collecting suffrages, or of balancing testimonies, and adopt a more easy and simple standard of truth; by referring to the general practice of men of acknowledged ability in the profession, and such as have had the most extensive opportunities of appreciating the virtues of this medicine.

“ In adopting this method, I feel myself well warranted in asserting, that surgeons do not commonly rely upon the muriated mercury for the cure of the venereal disease in their private practice; and that, in no hospital appropriated to the reception of venereal patients, in this kingdom, is that medicine administered as the established treatment of the house: I believe the same observation is true, when applied to hospitals on the Continent. When it is therefore considered, that a preparation of mercury so easily procured, a medicine so much more desirable for common use than the mode of treatment by inunction, and what forms a proper object of attention in all hospitals, a remedy of little expense compared with the external application of mercury; when, I say, notwithstanding these advantages, it is little used, and scarcely ever relied on, in cases where the constitution is affected, may we not infer from these facts, that it is declared, by a kind of general consent, to be a precarious and undesirable remedy?

“ I do not here intend to insinuate that the corrosive sublimate is never employed; nor to deny that it possesses any antivenereal powers: I only mean to contend, that it is not,

and it ought not to be, confided in, where secondary symptoms of lues have appeared; and general practice appears to sanction this decision. If it be inquired, how we are to dispose of the evidence given to the superior virtues of this medicine, by men of eminence and undoubted probity; I would ask, what are we to do with the numerous testimonies adduced in favour of the Ormskirk and Tonquin remedies, and of the various other specifics recommended against the bite of rabid animals? Are we to receive with implicit faith, the multiplied evidences recorded by great authorities, of the virtues of cicuta, belladonna, arsenic, vervain, &c. in the cure of cancer and scrophula?—If respectable names, or numerous suffrages, are to be admitted as unexceptionable proofs in every question of this kind, we must express regret instead of approbation of the labours of those learned moderns, who have expunged, or treated as obsolete, a far greater number of articles of the ancient materia medica than they have retained. The attention of the public is indeed required almost every year to some NEW medicine of never-failing efficacy; and another year's experience commonly evinces, that the only foundation of its claim to infallibility is, the property of infallibly disappointing the expectations of those who place confidence in its efficacy.

“ I have been an attentive observer, during many years, of the effects of combinations of mercurial salts with syrups, such as may be found described in the works of Gardane, De Horne, and others; and which are vended by empirics on the Continent, and in this kingdom, under different titles. It will be no important concession to allow, that the gonorrhœa may sometimes disappear during the use of these medicated syrups; because this form of the disease is often susceptible of a natural cure; and it may be also granted, that venereal ulcers of the tonsils, and blotches on the skin, are now and then removed by them; yet, in all the instances that have hitherto fallen under my notice, these secondary symp-

toms have invariably returned. On the other hand, I have known a three months regular continuance of the syrup fail of curing recent chancres; in many other instances, I have seen the disease proceed in its usual course, as if no medicine whatever had been employed; and in some important cases where secondary symptoms of lues venerea were present, the most patient, expensive, and persevering adherence, has not been attended with any real advantage."

The result of the author's observations is, "that simple mercury, calomel, or calcined mercury, are preparations more to be confided in for the cure of primary symptoms than corrosive sublimate. The latter will often check the progress of secondary symptoms very conveniently; and I think it is peculiarly efficacious in relieving venereal pains, in healing ulcers of the throat, and in promoting the desquamation of eruptions. Yet even in these cases it never confers permanent benefit; for new symptoms will appear during the use of it; and on many occasions, it will fail of affording the least advantage to the patient, from first to last.

"I do sometimes indeed employ this preparation in venereal cases; but it is either at the beginning of a mercurial course, to bring the constitution under the influence of mercury at an early period, or during a course of inunction, with the intention of increasing the action of simple mercury. I sometimes prescribe it also after the conclusion of a course of frictions, to support the mercurial influence in the habit, in order to guard against the danger of a relapse. But, on no occasion whatever do I think it safe to confide in this preparation singly and uncombined, for the cure of any truly venereal symptom.

"I made a series of experiments many years ago, to ascertain the comparative merits of mercury merely divided by triturating it with mucilaginous substances, of calcined mercury, of calomel, of the precipitate of calomel, produced by mixing it with volatile alkali, of the pulvis cinereus of Black, of nitrated mercury, &c.

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“ The calcined mercury, the precipitates of calomel as they have been called, and the nitrate of mercury, when given internally, were neither milder in their operation nor superior in efficacy, to calomel, or to simple mercury. Indeed, I prefer these two preparations to any of the former, as being less liable to disappoint my expectations, by exerting their primary action on the stomach and bowels, to the detriment of their more important effects as antivenereal remedies.

“ When any of the foregoing mercurial preparations were mixed with hog’s lard, and rubbed into the legs and thighs, they neither removed the local symptoms nor affected the general system in so short a space of time as the unguentum hydrargyri. In other respects, I did not remark any important difference in their agency as mercurial preparations.

“ The several operose and expensive preparations of mercury which have had a currency at different periods, as possessing extraordinary medicinal properties, are generally falling into disuse: for it is now commonly understood by men of science in our profession, that *what* we give is of less importance than *how* we give it.”

On mercurial fumigation. Mr. P. instituted a series of experiments to ascertain the merits of this plan of cure; and, after employing the machine recommended by De Blegny and M. Lalouette, he deduced the following conclusions:—“ That, where checking the progress of the disease suddenly is an object of great moment, where the body is covered with venereal ulcers, or where the eruptions are large and numerous, so that there scarcely remains a surface large enough to absorb the ointment, the application of the vapour of mercury will be always attended with evident advantage. But, in addition to these remarks, I think it right to subjoin, that it is extremely difficult to introduce a sufficient quantity of mercury into the animal frame, in this way, so as to secure the patient against the hazard of a relapse; I therefore consider it as

a mode of treatment by no means eligible in general practice.

“ The vapour of mercury, when applied to venereal ulcers, to fungi, and excrescences, is a medicament of singular efficacy, and merits the confidence of the surgeon; but little or no account ought to be made of the mercury which is thus received into the circulation; for we should never in those cases introduce a smaller quantity of the specific by inunction, for the purpose of securing the constitution, than if no fumigation had been employed.”

Observations on *some of the effects of mercury*. Mr. P. here very strenuously protests against the slovenly and insufficient mode of applying mercurial ointment to the skin, without actual friction; and very properly advises, that the patient himself should always perform the inunction. He combats the erroneous notion of free exposure to the cool air being no impediment to the cure, during a mercurial course.

“ When the venereal virus has produced what are commonly called secondary symptoms, the attempting to cure a patient without confining him to the house, will seldom succeed. In these cases, the failure cannot always be ascribed to certain irregularities to which persons who walk abroad freely are liable; for where the closest adherence to rules is in other respects observed, the effects of mercury on the constitution are commonly feeble, and on the disease, irregular, unequal, and imperfect. Even in those persons whose symptoms are inconsiderable and recent, a larger quantity of mercury must be introduced, and it must be continued for a longer time than where exclusion from the open air can be complied with.

“ I am aware, that particular instances may be adduced by every practitioner in surgery, of persons powerfully affected by small doses of mercury, who have taken their usual exercise abroad; but these exceptions can only point out what no man needs to be told, that a wonderful diversity in the operation

operation of mercury may be noted, in different constitutions, and under every variety of regimen.

“ Mr. Hunter seems to have thought, that neither cold nor warmth had any material effect on the action of mercury in the system ; but he supposed that these natural agents might have some effect on the venereal disease, in rendering it more or less susceptible of the medicinal agency of the specific.

“ If it be well authenticated, that lues venerea does not yield so kindly to the powers of mercury, when the diseased person is exposed to the cold air as when he is confined to a warm apartment, we become possessed of a rule of practice which ought always to have full influence in treating that malady. The reasons that pathologists may assign for this fact will probably be various and discordant ; but misconceptions or difference of opinion ought not to give rise to any perplexity in the conduct which prudence so clearly dictates upon this occasion : for, whether the action of the venereal poison, or of the remedy employed to cure it, suffer an alteration, from exposure of the patient to the atmosphere, yet, in order to ensure success, the obstructing cause must undoubtedly be taken away.”

The morbid effect of mercury, denominated *erethismus*, sometimes proving fatal, comes next under our notice : “ It is characterized by great depression of strength, a sense of anxiety about the præcordia, frequent sighing, trembling, partial or universal, a small quick pulse, sometimes vomiting, a pale contracted countenance, a sense of coldness ; but the tongue is seldom furred, nor are the vital or natural functions much disordered.

“ When these symptoms are present, a sudden and violent exertion of the animal power will sometimes prove fatal ; for instance, walking hastily across the ward, rising up suddenly in the bed to take food or drink, or slightly struggling with some of their fellow-patients, are among the circumstances

which have commonly preceded the sudden death of those afflicted with the mercurial crethismus.

“ To prevent the dangerous consequences of this diseased state, the patient ought to discontinue the use of mercury; nor is this rule to be deviated from, whatever may be the stage, or extent, or violence of the venereal symptoms. The impending destruction of the patient forms an argument paramount to all others; it may not be indeed superfluous to add, that a perseverance in the mercurial course, under these circumstances, will seldom restrain the progress of the disease, or be productive of any advantage.

“ The patient must be expressly directed to expose himself freely to a dry and cool air, in such a manner as shall be attended with the least fatigue. It will not be sufficient to sit in a room with the windows open; he must be taken into a garden, or a field, and live as much as possible in the open air, until the forementioned symptoms be considerably abated. The good effects of this mode of treatment, conjoined with a generous course of diet, will be soon manifested; and I have very often seen patients so far recovered in the space of from ten to fourteen days, that they could safely resume the use of mercury; and, what may appear remarkable, they can very often employ that specific efficiently afterwards, without suffering any inconvenience.”

For the purpose of procuring speedy relief to patients who had suffered severely from a copious ptyalism and ulcerated mouth, Mr. P. employed “purgatives, nitre, sulphur, gum arabic, lime-water, camphire, Peruvian bark, sulphurated kali, blistering plasters, &c.” without much benefit: he therefore says, “the speedy and decisive advantages resulting from free exposure to the open air, during the mercurial crethismus, induced me to try whether the same treatment would not confer an equal benefit on those who were suffering from a premature or excessive salivation. — Common prejudice has indeed, during a long time, proscribed exposure to the cold
air,

air, as being certainly injurious to those who are under the influence of mercury; and the inflammation of the gums, cheeks, and tongue, is, even at this day, frequently attributed to what is called a cold, as the exciting cause of it. These apprehensions are, however, ill founded; for, although freely exposing the person to cold and moisture, or to heat and moisture, during a mercurial course, may be generally considered as improper, yet the aggravation of the inflamed state of the mouth, the supervention of rheumatic pains, &c. ought not to be attributed to pure atmospheric air, but to the water contained in a foggy or damp atmosphere. The good effects of this practice justified my expectations; for I observed that the breathing of a cool dry air was no less beneficial than pleasant to a person affected with ulcerated cheeks and gums; the animal spirits were likewise recruited, and the health so much improved in the course of a week or ten days, that the patient was generally capable of returning to the use of his medicine again.

“ I have, accordingly, during many years, constantly directed those patients who have been suffering from this cause, to lay aside all coverings of the face; to go out in a carriage with the windows open; and when at a proper distance from town, to alight and walk in the fields as long as their strength would permit. Their apartments ought likewise to be well ventilated; no more fire should be kept than the season of the year may render absolutely necessary, and the person should live in the open air as much as possible. Not a single instance has yet occurred to me where the least indisposition was occasioned by this mode of treatment; and the certain advantages attending it, are such as can only be properly estimated by those who have often employed it.

“ In recommending free exposure to air, I do not intend to preclude any other subsidiary means which peculiar circumstances may indicate, or render eligible; such as, cathartics at due intervals, the Peruvian bark and mineral acids, with

with the assiduous application of astringent and other suitable gargles. The most material objection which I foresee against the method of treatment I have recommended, is the hazard to which the patient will be exposed, of having the salivation suddenly checked, and of suffering from some other disease in consequence of it.

“ If, however, a suppression of a ptyalism should be occasioned by any act of indiscretion, the remedy is easy and certain ; and consists only in the quick introduction of mercury into the body, so as to produce a soreness of the gums ; with the occasional use of the hot bath.”

The remaining part of the volume treats of the different *acids in lues venerea*. But, as this subject has been so fully and satisfactorily discussed by Mr. BLAIR, in two separate publications, which we have already reviewed, it will only be necessary to add, in the words of the author, that “ a permanent cure has never been accomplished by these acids where secondary symptoms have been present. The same acids,” he says, “ when exhibited with the utmost care and attention to many patients labouring under the primary symptoms of the venereal disease, and where they have agreed perfectly well with the stomach, have been, nevertheless, found inadequate to the cure of those symptoms. Indeed, the failures which have occurred, both in my own practice and that of many of my surgical friends, have been so numerous, that I do not think it eligible to rely on the nitrous acid, in the treatment of any one form of the lues venerea.

“ But while I am obliged thus to detract from the supposed merits of the nitrous acid as an antidote against lues venerea, I would by no means wish to see it exploded as a medicine altogether useless in that disease.

“ Where an impaired state of the constitution renders the introduction of mercury into the animal system inconvenient, or evidently improper, the nitrous acid will be found capable of restraining the progress of the disease, while, at the same time,

time, it will improve the health and strength of the patient. On some occasions this acid may be given in conjunction with a course of mercurial inunction; and it will be found to support the tone of the stomach, to promote appetite, to determine powerfully to the kidneys, and to counteract in no inconsiderable degree the effects of mercury on the mouth and fauces. These advantages are by no means unimportant; and certainly entitle the gentlemen who have been active in promoting the introduction of this acid into general practice, to the gratitude of the public.

“ I will not presume, however, to assert, that we have yet learnt all that can be known of the best mode of exhibiting this medicine: nor will I suppose that we have arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of its virtues. Yet, in the present state of our information upon this subject, it would by no means be warrantable to substitute the nitrous acid in the place of mercury, for the cure of venereal complaints; nor to permit the knowledge we have gained respecting some useful properties of the former, to seduce us to reject what a long course of experience has taught us of the certain efficacy of the latter.”

The author entirely agrees with his colleague, that the nitrous acid neither assists nor promotes the action of mercury in this disease; “ so that the surgeon would neither be authorized to diminish the quantity of that mineral, nor to abridge the time usually occupied in completing a course sufficient to give permanent security to the patient.”

ART. II. *Three Lectures upon Animal Life.* Delivered in the University of Pennsylvania, by BENJAMIN RUSH, M. D. Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and of Clinical Practice in the said University. Octavo. 84 pages. DOBSON, Philadelphia. 1799.

THE learned Professor has published these Lectures at the request of his pupils; although, in his own estimation, they

were not deemed sufficiently complete to meet the public eye. Dr. Rush disclaims the merit “of being the author of the great and original conception upon which they are founded. I have done,” says he, “but little more than carry the load to assist in completing part of a fabric, the foundations of which were laid by two of the most distinguished master-builders in medicine in the eighteenth century.”

The objects and general plan of these Lectures are thus unfolded by the author in his introductory observations :

“Some of these subjects will be new in lectures upon the institutes of medicine, particularly those which relate to morals, metaphysics, and theology. However thorny these questions may appear, we must approach and handle them ; for they are intimately connected with the history of the faculties and operations of the human mind ; and these form an essential part of the animal economy. Perhaps it is because physicians have hitherto been restrained from investigating and deciding upon these subjects, by an erroneous belief that they belong exclusively to another profession, that physiology has so long been an obscure and conjectural science.

“In beholding the human body, the first thing that strikes us is its *life*. This, of course, should be the first object of our inquiries. It is a most important subject—for the end of all the studies of a physician is, to preserve life ; and this cannot be perfectly done until we know in what it consists.

“I include in animal life, as applied to the human body, *motion, sensation, and thought*. These three, when united, compose perfect life. It may exist without thought or sensation ; but neither sensation nor thought can exist without motion. The lowest grade of life probably exists in the absence of even motion, as I shall mention hereafter. I have preferred the term motion to those of oscillation and vibration, which have been employed by Dr. Hartley in explaining the laws of animal matter ; because I conceive it to be more simple, and better adapted to common apprehension.

“In

“ In treating upon this subject, I shall first consider animal life as it appears in the waking and sleeping states in a healthy adult, and shall afterwards inquire into the modification of its causes, in the foetal infant, youthful and middle states of life, in certain diseases, in different states of society, in different climates, and in different animals.”

He then lays down the following propositions, in his first lecture :

“ I. Every part of the human body, the nails and hair excepted, is endowed with sensibility or excitability, or with both.

“ II. The whole human body is so formed and connected, that impressions made, in the healthy state, upon one part, excite motion or sensation, or both, in every other part of the body.

“ III. Life is the *effect* of certain stimuli acting upon the sensibility and excitability, which are extended in different degrees, of every external and internal part of the body. These stimuli are as necessary to its existence as air is to flame. Animal life is truly, to use the words of Dr. Brown, ‘ a forced state.’ I have said, the words of Dr. Brown ; for the opinion was delivered by Dr. Cullen, in the university of Edinburgh, in the year 1766, and was detailed by me in this school many years before the name of Dr. Brown was known as a teacher of medicine. It is true, Dr. Cullen afterwards deserted it ; but it is equally true, I never did : and the belief of it has been the foundation of many of the principles and modes of practice in medicine which I have since adopted. In a lecture which I delivered in the year 1771, I find the following words, which are taken from a manuscript copy of lectures given by Dr. Cullen, in the Institutes of Medicine : ‘ The human body is not an automatum, or self-moving machine ; but is kept alive and in motion by the constant action of stimuli upon it.’ In thus ascribing the discovery of the cause of life, which I shall endeavour to establish, to

Dr. Cullen, let it not be supposed I mean to detract from the genius and merits of Dr. Brown. To his intrepidity in reviving and propagating it, as well as for the many other truths contained in his System of Medicine, posterity, I have no doubt, will do him ample justice, after the errors that are blended with them have been corrected by their unsuccessful application to the cure of diseases."

The author next goes on to observe, that "the action of the brain, the diastole and systole of the heart, the pulsation of the arteries, the contraction of the muscles, the peristaltic motion of the bowels, the absorbing power of the lymphatics, secretion, excretion, hearing, seeing, smelling, taste, and the sense of touch, nay more, *thought itself*, are all the effects of stimuli acting upon the organs of sense and motion. These stimuli have been divided into external and internal. The external are, light, sound, odours, air, heat, exercise, and the pleasures of the senses. The internal stimuli are, food, drinks, chyle, the blood, a tension of the glands which contain secreted liquors, and the exercises of the faculties of the mind;" each of which he treats on, according to the order in which they are here noticed.

Life then, according to this hypothesis, "nay more, *thought itself*," is merely a quality residing in the component parts of a material system, dependent upon a peculiar organization, by which it is enabled to act, or in some way to move, on being stimulated or excited. Agreeably to this notion, life can never be inherent in a simple uncompounded substance, nor in a particle of animal matter; and if the stimulus be withheld from a living system beyond a given time, all motion, sensation, and thought, must necessarily be extinguished.

This doctrine, teaching that the life of a rational creature consists merely in a power of being acted upon by certain stimuli, is, in our opinion, subversive of moral and religious principles; it reduces man to a level with the brute creation :
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and, as it neither has been nor can be demonstrated, it certainly is very hardy and unphilosophical to reason from thence, as from an established axiom.

Dr. Rush remarks, that "*sound* has an extensive influence upon human life. Its numerous artificial and natural sources need not be mentioned. I shall only take notice," he says, "that the currents of winds, the passage of insects through the air, and even the growth of vegetables, are all attended with an emission of sound; and although they become imperceptible from habit, yet there is reason to believe they all act upon the body through the medium of the ears. The existence of these sounds is established by the reports of persons who have ascended two or three miles from the earth in a balloon. They tell us, that the silence which prevails in those regions of the air is so new and complete, as to produce an awful solemnity in their minds. It is not necessary that these sounds should excite sensation or perception, in order to their exerting a degree of stimulus upon the body. There are a hundred impressions daily made upon it, which, from habit, are not followed by sensation. The stimulus of aliment upon the stomach, and of blood upon the heart and arteries, probably ceases to be felt only from the influence of habit. The exercise of walking, which was originally the result of a deliberate act of the will, is performed from habit without the least degree of consciousness. It is unfortunate for this, and many other parts of physiology, that we forget what passed in our minds the first two or three years of our lives. Could we recollect the manner in which we acquired our first ideas, and the progress of our knowledge, with the evolution of our senses and faculties, it would relieve us from many difficulties and controversies upon this subject. Perhaps this forgetfulness by children of the origin and progress of their knowledge might be remedied by our attending more closely to the first effects of impression, sensation, and perception upon them, as discovered by their little actions; all
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of which probably have a meaning as determined as any of the actions of men or women.

“ The influence of sounds of a certain kind in producing excitement, and thereby increasing life, cannot be denied. Fear produces debility, which is a tendency to death. Sound obviates this debility, and thus restores the system to the natural and healthy grade of life. The school-boy and the clown invigorate their feeble and trembling limbs, by whistling or singing as they pass by a country church-yard; and the soldier feels his parting life recalled in the onset of a battle by the noise of the fife, and of the poet's ‘ spirit-stirring ‘ drum.’ Intoxication is frequently attended with a higher degree of life than is natural. Now, sound we know will produce this with a very moderate portion of fermented liquor; hence, we find men are more easily and highly excited by it at public entertainments, where there is music, loud talking, and hallooing, than in private companies, where there is no auxiliary stimulus added to that of the wine. I wish these effects of sound upon animal life to be remembered, for I shall mention it hereafter, as a remedy for the weak state of life in many diseases, and shall relate an instance in which a scream suddenly extorted by grief proved the means of resuscitating a person who was supposed to be dead, and who had exhibited the usual recent marks of the extinction of life. I shall conclude this head by remarking, that persons who are destitute of hearing and seeing, possess life in a more languid state than other people; and hence arise the dulness and want of spirits which they discover in their intercourse with the world.”

The author proceeds, after considering the external stimuli, to treat of the internal: *viz.*

I. Food; which acts, 1. upon the tongue; 2. by mastication; 3. by deglutition; 4. by its presence in the stomach, both from its quantity and quality; and, 5. by stimulating the whole body through the process of digestion. II.

The chyle. III. The blood. IV. A certain tension of the glands, and of other parts of the body. V. The exercises of the faculties of the mind. With respect to this last species of stimulus, the author observes, that he sees no occasion to admit, with the followers of Dr. Brown, that the mind is active in sleep. He hopes to establish the opinion of Locke, that the mind is always passive in sound sleep. "It is true," says he, "it acts in dreams, but these depend upon a morbid state of the brain, and therefore do not belong to the present stage of our subject; for I am now considering animal life only in the healthy state of the body. I shall say presently, that dreams are intended to supply the absence of some natural stimulus; and hence we find they occur in those persons most commonly in whom there is a want of healthy action in the system induced by the excess or deficiency of customary stimuli."

In the second lecture, Dr. Rush inquires into the state of animal life in sleep, in the foetus, in infants, in youth and middle life, in old age, in persons who are blind, deaf, and dumb, in idiots, in persons under the effects of long fasting, and in persons supposed to be dead, from drowning, freezing, and other causes.

When treating on the subject of sleep, the author relates the following anecdote:

"It is reported of Pope Ganganelli, that he slept more soundly, and longer than usual, the night after he was raised to the papal chair. The effects of unusual sounds, in bringing on premature sleep, are farther demonstrated by that constant inclination to retire to bed at an early hour, which country-people discover the first and second days they spend in a city, exposed from morning till night to the noise of hammers, files, and looms, or of drays, carts, waggons, and coaches, rattling over pavements of stone."

In the third lecture, the author takes a view of the state of animal life, in the different inhabitants of the globe, as
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varied by civilization, diet, situation, and climate; he accounts for the influence of certain mental stimuli, which act nearly alike upon the individuals of all nations; of the causes of life in all the different classes of animals; of the causes of life in vegetables; of the causes of death; and lastly, he draws his conclusions from the doctrine of animal life being the effect of impressions upon the body.

ART. III. *Medical Facts and Observations. Vol. VIII.*

(Continued from page 301.)

4. *Case of Retroversion of the Uterus terminating in Abortion and Death.* Communicated, in a Letter to Dr. Simmons, by James Bell, M.D. one of the Physicians of the Kelso Dispensary; and formerly President of the Medical and Natural History Societies of Edinburgh.

IN this case the retroversion of the uterus appears to have commenced at an earlier period of gestation than usual, viz. when the woman had conceived only about two months, to have increased gradually, and not to have been complete until near two months more had elapsed. The uneasiness felt on the partial suppression, or rather occasional difficulty experienced in voiding the urine, was not considerable enough to induce the patient to apply for medical assistance, before the injury done to the bladder and neighbouring parts was irremediable.

“ On the 8th of August, however,” the author says, “ her state of comparative ease was changed into intolerable agony, and, without any evident cause, her complaints were again aggravated in a very great degree. The pain in the region of the pelvis was much increased. The difficulty of passing urine was extreme. It was frequently suppressed for almost twenty-four hours; and for some days after this second attack, it was voided with such intolerable pain, as to bedew
her

her forehead with big drops of sweat, producing great suffusion of countenance, and sometimes bringing on delirium. This extreme pain and difficulty in voiding urine gradually subsided; and for three or four days previous to that on which I saw her, it had been passed with more ease, and in greater quantity at a time.

“ The pain over the abdomen made its appearance in three days after the second aggravation of her complaints, and had been increasing in severity. She had had no passage of her bowels for six days, and the vomiting had been present for nearly twenty-four hours.

“ The attendants had twice endeavoured to throw up a clyster, but without success.

“ Having acquired the above account of my patient, I had little doubt as to the nature of her situation. I therefore explained it to her, so far as was requisite to induce her to submit to the necessary measures for procuring relief, and proceeded to an examination per vaginam.

“ My finger soon reached a large, firm, round body, occupying the cavity of the pelvis, and I found, after a particular examination, that this body was the uterus in a state of impregnation. The os uteri was turned upwards and forwards, and was nearly opposed to the superior edge of the ossa pubis. The fundus uteri was found resting upon the sacrum. The uterus was immoveable, and in a state of complete retroversion. One part of the examination deserves notice:—A large portion of the rectum was pushed into the vagina, and protruded a considerable way beyond the external pudendum. The sphincter ani was perfectly contracted, and the protruded gut might aptly be compared to a hernia deprived of its coverings: it formed, in fact, a true elythrocele.

“ The examination having proved thus satisfactory, in ascertaining the nature of the case, I proceeded to the execution of those measures of relief, which it appeared to me that the situation of my patient rendered necessary.

“ The urine, as I have already mentioned, had flowed more freely for some days, and there was no particular fulness in the hypogastric region. But although, from these circumstances, I had reason to believe there was no great quantity of urine in the bladder, yet, as the depletion of this viscus was indispensably necessary to the replacing of the uterus, I resolved on the use of the catheter to empty the bladder completely. I accordingly introduced the instrument with great ease, but without producing any considerable discharge of urine.

“ It was next endeavoured to throw up a clyster, but the uterus pressed the rectum so firmly against the posterior parietes of the pelvis, that the attempt was necessarily unsuccessful. I therefore proceeded to the operation for which these preliminary steps had been employed, viz. the reduction of the uterus to its natural position.

“ Having introduced three fingers into the vagina, I placed them on different points of the uterus, and pressed this body upwards and forwards, so as to raise it above the brim of the pelvis. The pressure I employed was very considerable, but did not produce the smallest evident effect. Failing in this attempt, I resolved to place her on her knees, with her shoulders lowered, thus gaining the advantage of position. In this situation it was again attempted to throw up a clyster, but with no better success than before. I now renewed my attempts to reduce the uterus, and for this purpose employed a degree of force, greater than that I had used in the former posture. She complained but little, indeed greatly less than might have been expected. The pressure, however, excited strong efforts of bearing down, which were a considerable bar to the success of the operation; and at one time when the uterus appeared to be giving way, and I had great hopes of success, the patient, by an involuntary forcible effort of this kind, destroyed all the advantage I had gained. The motion and change of position having excited severe and repeated attacks of

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of vomiting, I thought it best to abstain from farther efforts at this time, satisfied that I had used every prudent degree of force in endeavouring to bring about the reposition of the uterus. But as I considered the patient's situation to be dangerous, and believed that upon the accomplishment of this object her only chance of recovery depended, I did not desist without much regret, and resolved to renew my attempts next day with yet more freedom.

“ In the mean time she was ordered frequent small quantities of rich broths, and occasionally wine. I likewise directed for her a purgative bolus (composed principally of pulv. jalap. gr̄ xv, and hydr. muriat. mit. gr̄ vj,) to be taken immediately, and to be repeated early next morning if it did not produce the desired effect. Her situation being such as to give every reason to believe that it would preclude the enjoyment of rest or sleep throughout the night, she was also ordered to have an opiate at bed-time, if her distress continued urgent.

“ Such was the situation of my patient at the time of my visit. She continued, after I left her, nearly in the same state until about eight o'clock in the evening, when she was seized with labour pains, and every symptom of an approaching abortion. The labour pains were exceedingly moderate, and terminated in a few minutes in the expulsion of a healthy, well-formed foetus. The placenta immediately followed with little or no hæmorrhage, and there was little additional distress attendant upon the action of the uterus. There was, however, no alleviation of the pain in the region of the pelvis after the miscarriage. On the contrary, she appears to have passed a very restless night.

“ These circumstances were communicated to me early on the following morning by the husband, by whom I was also informed, that the change which had been produced in his wife's situation, by the abortion, had unfortunately induced the attendants to postpone the use of the medicines I had pre-
scribed,

scribed. I therefore enjoined him, immediately on his return home, to give directions that the purgative bolus should be administered without delay, and that another attempt should be made to throw up an injection. The latter part of these directions alone was followed. An attendant endeavoured to administer the clyster, but found an impossibility of making it pass on. The physic also was offered to her, as she had had no passage of her bowels, but, finding herself weak and exhausted, she could not be prevailed on to take it.

“ She had little or no vomiting from the period of my leaving her. The state of debility, however, which was so remarkable on that day, rapidly increased, and about one o’clock in the afternoon of the 19th her sufferings terminated in death.”

On opening the body, a considerable quantity of serum, with portions of coagulated gluten, were found in the cavity of the abdomen. The bladder was flaccid, and much enlarged: its coats were every where thickened, and a portion of the fundus, the size of half a crown, was in a state of mortification. The inflammation, which had probably begun in the bladder, was extended to the omentum, to different parts of the intestines, and to the stomach. The uterus had recovered its situation, was reduced to nearly its natural size, and appeared to be very little injured by the pressure it had undergone. The woman was 36 years of age, mother of nine children, and had enjoyed good health until this accident happened, which occasioned her death.

5. *Some Observations relative to the Climate and Diseases of Sierra Leone.* By Thomas Masterman Winterbottom, M.D. of South Shields, Durham; late Physician to the Settlement at Sierra Leone. Communicated in a Letter to Robert Willan, M.D. Physician in London; and by him to Dr. Simmons.

The settlement of Free Town, Sierra Leone, is situated on the banks of a large river of that name, above 8° N. of the equator.

equator. It has been supposed to have taken its name from its abounding with lions; but improperly, no lions being found in that part of Africa. It is more probable, the author says, it was so called from some person who formerly made a settlement there; other parts, he observes, retaining the names of the persons who had discovered or resided in them.

“ The land about the settlement, when viewed from the sea, or from the opposite shore called Bullom, appears like a number of hills, heaped one upon another in a very irregular manner. On a nearer approach, the face of the country becomes more beautiful; the hills are covered to their very summits with lofty trees; and the lower grounds, which are cultivated, preserve, by means of the heavy dews which fall, a lively verdure the whole year round, which forms a striking contrast with the darker hues of the more distant hills.

“ The shore of Sierra Leone, from the Cape to within a mile or two of Gambia, is very rugged, being chiefly composed of rocks which abound in iron, and which lie upon a sandy bottom. Excepting in some of the small creeks, which proceed from the bottom of one or two of the bays near the Cape, the shore is quite free from mangroves and ooze.

“ Free Town is seated upon a piece of ground which rises very abruptly from the water's edge, above which it is elevated at least fifty feet; from thence it rises in a gradual and almost imperceptible manner till it reaches the foot of the hills which run behind the town, leaving a space of about three quarters of a mile from the bottom of the hills to the water's edge. The hills at this part are supposed to be elevated about six hundred feet above the surface of the water.

“ Sierra Leone has always been noted for its fine water, which is supposed to be superior to any upon the coast; and on that account has always been much resorted to by ships. Free Town is well supplied from several small springs which issue from crevices of the rocks. On each side of the town
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the water runs in a considerable stream, and discharges itself into the bottom of two small bays, which in the rainy season are so much increased as to form small cascades. The water, when viewed in a glass, is perfectly transparent, sparkling, and void of smell or taste."

The soil, we are told, is of an argillaceous nature, mixed with sand, interspersed with rocks, the situation dry, with no swamps in its neighbourhood, and it is very little troubled with musquitoes. The streets of the town are eighty feet broad, running in straight lines, and intersecting each other at right angles. The houses stand separate, each family being allowed a piece of ground forty-eight feet wide by seventy-six feet deep, to build upon. The number of inhabitants is about twelve hundred, and they are said to be industrious, sober, and in general healthy.

There is another small settlement, Granville Town, rather more elevated than Free Town. It contains one hundred inhabitants; and, in the rainy season, is much infested with musquitoes, but is, nevertheless, very healthy, which is contrary, the author observes, to the opinion of Dr. Lind, who considered an abundance of musquitoes as an indication of the insalubrity of the place.

"Stock of all kinds," we are told, "thrives well in the colony, particularly fowls, ducks, pigs, and goats. Among the wild animals met with in the woods, the flintombo, a species of antelope, is most common; the flesh is very good and well tasted: wild hogs are also pretty common, and have been killed; their flesh is excellent, and preferred by many to that of the domestic kind: buffaloes also have been killed, but they are not often met with; and, except when they are young, the flesh is tough and not well tasted.

"The river abounds with a variety of excellent fish, which forms a considerable part of the diet of the inhabitants; oysters are picked from the rocks and from the stems of the mangrove trees in great numbers. Turtles are likewise very common;

mon; the hawksbill turtle is the most so, but the green turtle is also frequently met with.

“ Rice, which is the chief vegetable production of this country, forms a large proportion of the food of the natives and of our settlers; it is almost peculiar to this rice to grow upon dry grounds, and even upon the sides of hills; it is of a reddish colour when cleaned, and is esteemed very wholesome and nutritious. *Jatropha janipha*, or sweet cassada, is another vegetable which grows here in great abundance; the root, when ground into flour, is often made into thin cakes by the settlers, which are light and palatable; like the sweet cassada of the West Indies, it is perfectly harmless, and requires no previous preparation, except boiling or roasting, to render it fit to eat, though it is often eaten raw, and tastes much like a chesnut: yams succeed very well also, though they were not found here in any quantity till introduced by our settlers. Maize or Indian corn, eddoes, plantains, sweet potatoes, ochre, ground nuts, and various kinds of pulse, are produced here in great abundance.

“ Among the fruits, pine-apples, oranges, limes, papayas, bananas, and a species of yellow plum, with a grateful sub-acid taste, are very plentiful. The guayaver, and acajou or cashew, grow here, but are not plentiful; water melons have been introduced and succeed very well; the wild vines, though extremely luxuriant, have an unpleasant acerb taste.

“ The year,” he says, “ as in other tropical climates, may be divided with propriety into the dry and rainy seasons. The division into healthy and sickly seasons, which holds in many tropical countries as well as in many parts of Africa, cannot be observed here, as sickness does not appear confined to any particular time of the year. The rainy season may be considered as beginning in May, and terminating about the middle of September. The approach of the rains is usually gradual, being ushered in by tornados; they likewise decline gradually, and are carried off by tornados. It may be observed, that

the tornadoes which precede the rains are in general less regular and also less frequent than those which carry them off.

“ From November to May may be called the dry season, though showers of rain do sometimes occur during these months, independently of what falls in tornadoes.

“ The atmosphere at Sierra Leone is generally so obscured by clouds or haze, or both, that it is very rare to see even part of a day attended with a clear sky; insomuch so, that it is an observation made by many who have been long upon the coast, though it more particularly applies to the coast to leeward of Cape Palmas, that it is a rare thing to see the sun rise in Africa. This thickness of the atmosphere serves as a veil to temper the scorching rays of the sun. The hottest part of the day is generally about half past two or three in the afternoon; and the coolest part of the day is between five and six in the morning.”

By a table annexed, we find the range of the thermometer, in the course of a year, was from 71° to 95° .

Having given this ample and favourable account of the soil, climate, and productions of the place, the author next proceeds to give a journal of his practice, containing an account of the diseases that occurred in the same time. The most prevalent were remittent and intermittent fevers; to which were joined catarrhs, colics, rheumatism, and other common complaints, which seem to have yielded to medicine as readily as the same diseases do in Europe. But this favourable account of the diseases of the settlement must be entirely attributed to the prudence and caution of the projectors and managers of the concern; to their making choice of a dry, elevated, and well-ventilated spot of ground, abounding with pure and sweet water; and to their care in banishing from among the people idleness and intemperance. In other and less favoured spots, in the neighbourhood of the settlement, where these precautions are not taken, the mortality from disease continues to be excessive.

6. *Case of gangrenous Stomach, with Dysphagia, from Lightning.*
Communicated in a Letter to Dr. Simmons, by Mr. Patrick Paterson, Surgeon of the twenty-ninth Regiment of Light Dragoons.

The subject of this case, a man about 30 years of age, was suddenly attacked with failure of sight, with a sense of fulness and uneasiness at the stomach, which he first felt, he said, after being exposed to a flash of lightning. He had also some difficulty in swallowing.

The third day from the accident, he began to articulate indistinctly, like one who had a slight degree of the croup. The next day his sight was more defective, his articulation worse, his urine high coloured, his tongue dry; but he had no thirst. His pulse and skin were not altered from their natural state. His stomach and bowels were torpid, so that very large doses of white vitriol, of ipecacuanha, of calomel, jalap, &c. which were given, imagining that the fulness at the stomach might proceed from some indigestible matter lodged there, produced no effect. On the fifth day he died.

On opening the thorax and abdomen, the viscera in both cavities, at first view, appeared to be sound; but on examining further, a large portion of the stomach, viz. from the cardia to within two or three inches of the pylorus, was found to be mortified.

As there can be no doubt that the mortification of the stomach was occasioned by the flash of lightning, it seems extraordinary no mark should appear on the teguments through which it must have passed to produce this singular tragedy.

7. *An Account of the good Effects of a Decoction of Peach-leaves, in some Affections of the urinary Passages.* Communicated in a Letter to Samuel Foart Simmons, M.D. F.R.S. by Sir Wm. Bishop, Knt. Surgeon at Maidstone in Kent.

The subject of this case, a single woman 42 years of age, had been several years severely afflicted with a disorder in the kidneys, ureters, and bladder, attended with violent pain. She had

in the course of different paroxysms voided several calculi, preceded and accompanied with large quantities of blood. She sometimes voided, we are told, half a pint of blood at a time, without any mixture of urine.

“ For her relief a variety of remedies was had recourse to, such as repeated bleeding and warm bathing, saline purgatives, emetics of different kinds, camphor and opium in large doses, uva ursi, mephitic alkaline water, &c. To the camphor, combined with opium, which brought on a copious diaphoresis, she was more than once indebted for a mitigation of her painful symptoms. The mephitic alkaline water was tried repeatedly in different forms, plain and with additions, cold and warmed; but it constantly occasioned pain of the stomach and vomiting.”

The hæmaturia and pain continuing, and all remedies proving ineffectual, the writer was induced, on the recommendation of Mr. Allan, his assistant, to make a trial of a decoction of peach-leaves; which was the medicine, he understood, that was used by a person in the neighbourhood who had acquired considerable reputation for his success in curing diseases in the kidneys and bladder. An ounce of the dried leaves of the peach-tree (*Amygdalus Persica Linnæi*) was boiled in a quart of water until it was reduced to a pint and a half; and the patient was directed to drink a pint of this decoction daily. At the end of thirty hours, we are told, from the time she began the use of this remedy, she voided clear natural urine, and in a few days was cured. Since that time she has occasionally voided gravel, or small calculi, but has had no return of hæmaturia.

Although we are not disposed to deny a due portion of merit to the peach-leaves, yet the cessation of the complaint in this case occurred too early after beginning to take the decoction to attribute it entirely to that medicine. It is probable, the stone which had done the principal part of the mischief had fallen into the bladder—perhaps had been voided before this new process

process was begun. The case, however, was deserving of being recorded; and it will be very proper to give the medicine a further trial. We shall be glad to be favoured with an account of any experiments that may be made with it, whether they should prove successful or not; and promise that due attention shall be paid to them.

Hæmaturia, at least to the degree this patient was afflicted with it, is by no means of frequent occurrence; but the medicine might be tried in painful micturition, with or without blood accompanying, in cases where a large quantity of mucus is voided with the urine, and where the uva ursi and other usual medicines fail. It may be proper, however, to caution gentlemen to be attentive to the effects of this remedy upon the system. The leaves of the peach-tree are said by botanical writers somewhat to resemble the laurel-leaves in taste and smell; so that they might be suspected, Alston says, (in his Second Volume of Lectures on the Materia Medica, p. 366,) of virulency as well as they—but for their power of moving the bowels, which may, he thinks, balance their narcotic quality, if any such they have: and Woodville, in his Medical Botany, vol. iv. p. 71, gives a similar caution.

8. *A Case of Lithotomy, attended with some remarkable Circumstances.* By Mr. Wm. Wickham, Surgeon of the Winchester Hospital. Communicated in a Letter to John Latham, M.D. F.R.S. Physician at Romsey in Hampshire; and by him to Dr. Simmons,

The stone in this case was distinctly felt at the end of the staff, but the surgeons could by no art pass the instrument into the bladder, to guide them in performing the operation, although repeated attempts were made at various times. Aperient medicines, clysters, the warm bath, and opiates were administered, with the view of relaxing the parts, and taking off irritation and spasm, which were supposed to occasion the obstacle, but without effect. “At length fever,” the writer says, p. 128, “with great tension of the whole ab-

domen, and such a degree of inflammation came on, as to prevent any further attempts in the way of operation. The patient, a boy of nine years of age, died on the 3d of September, a month after the last examination."

On opening the body, a stone weighing three drachms, with a narrow projection at one end, was found lying loose in the bladder. It is probable, Mr. Wickham thinks, that at the times of making the trials, the narrow end of the stone was impacted in the neck of the bladder, and prevented the sound from passing.

9. *Two Cases of Hernia congenita.* By Mr. Henry Fryer, Surgeon at Stamford. Communicated in a Letter to John Clarke, M. D. Physician in London; and by him to Dr. Simmons.

"In 1790 I was consulted by a person, neither of whose testicles had come down to the scrotum; by this, I mean that they had not passed the abdominal rings, but formed two small tumours resembling bubonocoele. He informed me that he had been frequently near dying from strangulation of the intestines at both openings [in the oblique muscle,] sometimes at one, sometimes the other; intestine and testicle being both to be felt at each."

As this patient was 30 years of age, and consequently there was no chance of the testicles descending into the scrotum, "and the tumours were readily returnable," Mr. Fryer recommended a double truss to be applied. "He followed my advice," the writer adds; "and had no trouble from the complaint afterwards."

The second patient was a boy six or seven years of age. The hernia existed on one side only. Symptoms of strangulation recurring frequently, Mr. F. says, and finding the testicle did not come down into the scrotum, he directed a truss to be applied; since which time the boy has remained perfectly well.

"The practical conclusion from these two cases is, that hernia inguinalis may exist, although the testicles may not have

have descended into the scrotum; and if it should, that the same means are both necessary and practicable for its relief."

10. *Case of imperforate Hymen.* By the same.

The retained menstrual blood accumulating in the vagina, at length formed a tumour considerable enough to prevent the patient, who was 16 years of age, from passing her urine. The author was sent for, and, after drawing off the urine, proposed opening the vagina; which being agreed to, he made an incision with an imposthume lancet, and let out upwards of thirty ounces of the fluid. By using a proper tent, to prevent the accretion of the edges of the passage, the parts healed, and the young woman was restored to health.

11. *Case of Fungus, from a Wound in the Ear.* By the same.

In the course of curing a wound of the ear, occasioned by a fall from a horse, a fungus rose, which, although removed with blue vitriol, the lunar caustic, &c. recurred, and at length attained the size of half an orange.

"I then determined," the writer says, "to try the effect of arsenic and antimony, sprinkling some of it upon lint, and applying it over the fungus: this adhered so closely, that it was not moveable for a day or two. I then found it had acted on the tumour, without having caused much pain; it was, therefore, continued occasionally till the whole of the fungus was destroyed, and dropped off; which it did by degrees, having turned black, but without much smell, and left a clean healthy sore, which healed without any further trouble: but the cure was not effected in less than fifteen weeks from the time of the accident."

12. *Case of a Wound penetrating the Cavity of the Abdomen.* By the same.

A girl, 16 years of age, having been gored in the belly by a cow, a portion of the intestines came through the wound. Mr. Fryer did not see the patient until six hours after the accident. The intestines were then so much inflated that he could not return them until he had enlarged the aperture, which

which having effected, and returned the intestines, the wound was healed by the end of six weeks, and the patient gradually recovered her health.

13. *A Case of hairy Concretions found in the human Stomach.*

By Mr. William Wood, Surgeon at Wingham in Kent; and Fellow of the Linnean Society in London. Communicated in a Letter to Samuel Foart Simmons, M.D. F.R.S.

Mary Spain, the subject of this case, always enjoyed a good state of health until she attained her 18th year, at which time, Mr. Sankey informs Mr. Wood, “ she began to be irregular, and to have symptoms of chlorosis attended with vomiting, constipations of the bowels, and sometimes with most violent pains, resembling the pains of labour. These symptoms generally returned every three or four months, and continued to do so till her death. In the month of August 1796, I first saw her; her pains were then so violent, and so much resembled labour pains, that I really thought her in labour, particularly as the menses were obstructed, and she had a considerable swelling of the abdomen. In a few days she became easier, as usual, and continued so for three or four months, at which period she seldom failed to have a return of the symptoms. I did not see her from that time till the 16th of November 1797, when I found her in the same situation as before. By the use of opiates, &c. for two or three days her pains were abated; but on December 2d she sent for me again, in consequence of having voided a small lump of hair the day before. She was now better, and began to be in hopes of getting well. On the 26th of December, the pain, vomiting, &c. returned, and on the next day she died. On the 30th I opened the body. The abdomen was very much distended, and upon opening it, a large quantity of dark-coloured fetid fluid was found extravasated among the intestines. The mesentery was in a state between suppuration and mortification. The small intestines were much inflamed, and covered with that kind of matter which is said to be found

in those who die of the puerperal fever. The whole of the canal was empty. The uterus, bladder, kidneys, liver, spleen, and pancreas, were in a perfectly natural state. The stomach appeared sound, both on the outside and on the inside, and contained nothing but the two lumps of hair, which you may suppose, by their size and shape, nearly filled it. The hair, in colour and texture, seems much like her own, which, when a child, used to be long, but lately her friends had taken notice that it was always short. This in some measure accounts for the hair in her stomach, though no person ever saw her swallow any."

The masses were found, on examination, to be composed of coarse black hair matted together with what Mr. Wood conjectures to be the aliment taken into the stomach at different times, and there, by the action of that organ, united into a mass. At the large end was an excavation, which might have been formed by that end lying near the œsophagus, exposed to the immediate action of all the fluid taken into the stomach. Round the edge of the lump, at different places, were locks of hair of considerable length.

A good engraving of the largest of these concrete substances accompanies the account. It was six inches and an half long, three inches and an half broad, near ten inches in circumference, and weighed five ounces twenty-seven grains in a dried state.

Some further observations on concretes of this kind follow, for which we refer our readers to the volume itself.

14. *A Case of ruptured Uterus, with the Appearances on Dissection.* By Isaac Cathrall, M.D. Physician at Philadelphia. Communicated in a Letter to John Clarke, M.D. Physician in London; and by him to Dr. Simmons.

The labour in this case is represented as having been tedious; the head of the child continuing for some time jammed in the pelvis. The woman was 38 years of age, and this was her first labour. The child was supposed to have died in its

passage.

passage. Dr. Cathrall was desired to see the woman on the following day. As the abdomen continued to be tumid, the midwife imagined there might be a second child, but on the Doctor's introducing his hand into the vagina, "instead of finding another child," he says, "his hand passed through an opening on the right side of the uterus into the cavity of the abdomen. On the following day the woman died.

On opening the body the intestines were found very much inflamed, distended with air, and adhering to the peritoneum. The rupture commenced a little above the cervix, and extended about two inches and an half towards the fundus of the uterus. This viscus had contracted to the size of a foot-ball, was firm to the touch, and did not bear any evident marks of gangrene.

15. *An Account of a ruptured Uterus.* By John Sims, M.D.
Physician in London.

A well-formed woman, mother of several children, in the seventh month of her pregnancy, after taking a long walk, was seized with uterine hæmorrhage, which continued some days, and then gradually abated, and did not again return. At the end of two months more she was taken with labour pains, which after a few hours quitted her; and not returning, as the midwife had given her reason to expect, she sent the next day to a practitioner in the neighbourhood. On examining, he found the os uteri a little open, but could feel no part of the child, neither per vaginam nor by laying his hand on the abdomen, which was very much distended and hard. Concluding her to be dropsical, and not pregnant, some medicines were given with the view of relieving her from that complaint. After a few days, the woman growing worse, Dr. Sims was sent for. "He found her," he says, "unable to lie down in bed, complaining of violent pains in her side; her respiration was short and frequent; her pulse extremely rapid, with some hardness in the stroke; a fetid black discharge flowed from the vagina; her legs and thighs were much

much swollen, and pitted upon pressure ; the mouth of the womb was relaxed, and a little open at the first entrance, just as it is frequently found, when unimpregnated, in women who have had several children ; no part of a child could be felt through the parieties of the womb, nor could any enlargement of this organ be perceived. I was immediately convinced that if the midwife had given a true account of the case at the time she was first called, a rupture of the uterus had taken place, and the child had escaped into the cavity of the abdomen. With this idea I examined the state of the belly externally, which was very large, and hard to the feel ; the tumour circumscribed as in pregnancy, but nothing like the extremities of a child could be felt through the integuments ; and when afterwards the woman was able to lie down, and turn in her bed, I could not find, upon examining in different positions, that the tumour fell to the depending side. The patient herself complained of a sense of greater weight on the one side than on the other, but this did not change to the other side upon her turning in bed.

“ She had made no water for more than twenty-four hours before I saw her. I ordered her urine to be drawn off with the catheter, which operation was necessarily repeated from time to time for about a week after. On account of the urgency of the difficulty of breathing and the pain in her side, eight or nine ounces of blood were directed to be immediately taken from the arm, and a blister was applied to the side affected ; she took an anodyne bolus with rhubarb every night, and a cordial draught every six hours.

“ Upon the 18th, I found her breathing much relieved, the pain in her side gone, her pulse considerably more calm, though it still beat 120 strokes in a minute. The discharge from the vagina was much increased, and most intolerably fetid. She was ordered to take a decoction of bark with aromatic confection, and a nourishing generous diet ; but from a total loss of appetite, and constant sickness at stomach,

very little food of any kind could be got down. In a few days after, some of the nails and a little of the hair of a full-grown foetus (as was judged from the size of the nails) were discharged from the vagina, and these were followed by some small finger-bones. The patient continued much in the same state till about the middle of June, the discharge becoming if possible every day more offensive. About this time the appearance of this was changed; it seemed now to consist, at first in part, and afterwards altogether, of a most intolerably stinking oil; the quantity, however, diminished daily, and by the end of the third week in June it had nearly ceased to flow; and the patient, in the mean time, began to recover appetite, and to feel a return of strength.

“ By the 1st of July she seemed much recovered in her looks; the bloated face, and œdematous affection of the lower extremities, had entirely disappeared; the size of her belly was much lessened; the fetid discharge had entirely ceased, her appetite was good, and she was able to sit up a great part of the day. In short, the poor woman seemed now to be in a state of convalescence, recruiting fast, both in spirits and strength, when unfortunately she was persuaded by some foolish adviser, that a good jumbling in a coach would bring on her long-expected labour, and rid her at once of her remaining incumbrance; a coach was accordingly procured, and although the motion of it gave her excruciating pain, particularly about the navel, at which part she had for some days felt a pricking pain upon bending her body forward, yet fully persuaded that it was from the shaking that she was to expect a salutary effect, she bore it with fortitude. The pain continued increasing after her return home, with great soreness over the whole abdomen, and she expired early in the morning on the 7th of July, two days after the fatal ride,” and two months from the time of her being taken in labour.

On opening the body, the bones and what remained of the foetus were found enclosed in a membranous sac, lying between

tween the bladder and the uterus, and adhering to all the neighbouring parts. The uterus was reduced to nearly its natural size. A rent of about three quarters of an inch in length was found in the anterior part of the cervix, the edges of which were nearly contiguous, but ulcered, and not disposed to heal.

“ A question may arise,” the Doctor says, “ at what time the rupture of the uterus took place; but if the midwife’s account is to be credited, the child must have escaped from the womb after she saw her, and the size of the bones seems to confirm her account: otherwise the hæmorrhage that took place immediately after the violent exercise, and did not return afterwards, would lead to a suspicion that the uterus was ruptured at that time; and the adhesion of the lower border of the great arch of the colon to the fundus uteri, seems to shew that some inflammation at least was brought on the womb at that time.

“ A knowledge of this case has led me to suspect that many of the supposed instances of extra-uterine gestation have in reality been cases of ruptured uterus; and I have little doubt of referring hither, a supposed ventral gestation, of which an account has been lately published. For had the rent in my patient’s womb healed by the first intention, (and by the close contact of its sides it appears that this might have very readily happened,) all access of the external air being prevented, the child would probably have remained long in the cavity of the abdomen, without undergoing much putrefaction: and, upon examination after death, who would then have suspected that this child had ever been within the cavity of the womb?”

16. *Case of Prolapsus Ani, cured partly by an Excision of a Portion of the inner Coat of the Intestine, and partly by the Introduction of a Wax Candle within the Cavity of the Rectum.* By Mr. Thomas Whately, Member of the Corporation of Surgeons of London.

The disease in this case had been of several years continuance, and the gut now came down on taking the most moderate exercise, and was very painful. After trying various medicines without benefit, it was agreed, in consultation with Mr. Cline, to cut off the protruded part. The portion taken off was of the size of a cherry. No hæmorrhage of any consequence ensued, and in about ten days the patient was able to attend his business.

The prolapsus a few days after appearing again, although not so painful as before, the patient was solicitous of having the operation repeated, which was accordingly performed, and a portion of the gut, rather larger than at first, taken away. But the same evening a still larger portion of the intestine came down, attended with considerable pain, which, although frequently returned, and attempted to be confined with compresses and bandages, could not be retained.

After various expedients used ineffectually, Mr. W. passed a piece of large wax candle four inches long into the rectum, which, keeping the gut in its place, gave immediate ease; and at the end of three days, an anodyne being given every night, to prevent the patient having stools, the swelling round the verge of the anus and all symptoms of inflammation had subsided. "On the fifth day from the introduction of the candle, the patient was so well," the author says, "that he judged it safe to withdraw the thread; this was accompanied with nothing but the cotton wick of the candle, the wax having been gradually melted by the heat of the parts. A dose of castor oil, to empty the bowels, was then administered. In a few days the patient fully recovered his health and strength, and was soon able to use any degree of exercise, either on horseback or on foot, without any return of the prolapsus, and still continues perfectly free from his complaint."

Some judicious observations follow, on the treatment of complaints of this kind, well worth the attention of the reader.

17. *Account of the successful Treatment of a large Swelling of the lower Jaw, with an Abscess in the Neck, occasioned by supernumerary Teeth.* By the same.

This curious case is accompanied also with some ingenious observations, but will not readily admit of being abridged.

18. *An Account of a Mode of Practice which has been successfully adopted, in Cases of Distortion of the Pelvis, in pregnant Women.* By Mr. John Barlow, Surgeon at Bolton in Lancashire. Communicated in a Letter to Mr. W. Simmons, Surgeon at Manchester; and by him to Dr. Simmons.

The mode of delivery recommended in this interesting paper, and supported by the recital of a number of cases, of the authenticity and correctness of which we have no doubt, has been followed by some practitioners in London; but from the peculiar delicacy of the subject, and the apprehension that the operation might be resorted to, on other and improper occasions, no one has chosen publicly to acknowledge he had ever practised it. Convinced of its practicability and safety, and of the great benefit that may accrue from it to persons so unhappily formed as those for whose benefit it is proposed, we feel no difficulty in contributing to its publicity.

“My method,” the author says, “consists in exciting premature labour early in the seventh month of pregnancy, whenever I have been consulted in time by distorted patients. At this period of gestation, the smaller size of the child’s head, and the greater compressibility of its bones, render the completion of delivery easy, without the assistance of instruments; so that the mother is not exposed to any peculiar hazard by the practice; and the child at seven months old has a sufficient chance of surviving the birth.

“From a number of cases which have occurred to me, I am even persuaded that labour might be brought on at an earlier period, if the extreme deformity of the pelvis should require it, without much risk to the mother.

“It is hardly necessary to describe the particular method which

which I employ to excite labour. It is easy for any medical man to understand how the membranes may be ruptured, without pain or injury to the mother. If the practice were made generally known, it might be applied to very bad purposes. I commonly give a mixture, from which the patient is taught to expect the desired result; every thing then goes on as in natural labour.

“ The safety and certainty of this method are such, that some of my patients, who had formerly been delivered by the crotchet, are now in the habit of sending to fix with me in what week labour shall be brought on; and the event has always answered their expectations and mine.”

The experiment has been tried by this gentleman on five different women, and with such success, that of eighteen children delivered in this way twelve were born alive, and all of them without the assistance of instruments.

When it is considered that the pelvises in all these women were so narrow that it was impracticable to bring a full-grown foetus through them, of which proof had been given, as they had all of them been delivered with crotchets before, and some of them several times in succession, the value of the suggestion, or discovery, must be estimated very high, although we were not to take into the account the ease it offers to the woman, and the relief to the feelings of the practitioner, which (particularly the former) add very much indeed to its importance.

Against these advantages is only to be placed, the chance of the same mode being resorted to, to procure abortion, in cases of pregnancy from clandestine amours. This is certainly to be much deprecated. But as, from the earliest times, women in these cases have applied for medicines to procure abortion, and drugs of pernicious and deleterious qualities are daily administered by quacks and old women for that purpose, which, with or without producing the intended effect, prove destructive to the health and often to the lives of the

the women, this objection to divulging the proposed operation should, we think, have little weight.

As Mr. Barlow has not mentioned the method he employs to excite labour, we shall fill up that chasm by suggesting, that the operation may be commodiously performed by passing a catheter through the os uteri, and pushing it against the membranes; if that should not prove sufficient to break them, they may be easily pierced by a pointed probe pushed through the catheter: the labour is afterwards to be left to nature.

We observe, Dr. Nisbet has mentioned this operation in the Third Part of his Clinical Guide, p. 197; but expresses much doubt of its success, and even thinks it may be attended with great mischief to the mother: and we are acquainted with some practitioners who are equally averse to it. As the practice may be said to be in its infancy, and the cases here given are not sufficient to enable us to form definitive conclusions of its real value, any further observations or experiments on the subject, addressed to our publisher, will be thankfully received, and early noticed.

The remainder of the papers forming this interesting volume, which are selected with great care and judgment, being taken from the Transactions of the Royal and other philosophical and medical Societies, it will be unnecessary to notice them in this place.

ART. IV. *Handbuch der Theoretischen und Praktischen Chemie; i. e. A Manual of the Theory and Practice of Chemistry.* By J. F. A. GÖTTLING, Professor in the University of Jena, and Member of several learned Societies. In Two Parts. Octavo. 1089 pages. Jena. 1799. Price 13s.

THE celebrated author of this work has here accumulated the most important facts and discoveries which have lately enriched the science of chemistry. Among other peculiarities of

of Professor Göttling, we observe that he considers the purest oxygen gas, when heated with phosphorus at a low temperature, as converted into azotic gas; that, consequently, the latter species of air contains the same ponderable basis as the former; and that azote, though its existence has been admitted in other combinations, upon the authority of Lavoisier, neither exists here nor in azotic gas. Caloric is by him considered as a fluid which so readily penetrates all bodies, that for this very reason it is not ponderable by any apparatus which could possibly be invented; and though he does not enter into an investigation of the materiality or immateriality of this substance, or the cause of heat, yet it is pretty evident from his details, that he supposes it to approach to something of a material nature; for the properties which he attributes to it can be predicated only of matter. This substance appears, in other respects, to be intimately connected with the cause of light, and in this combination forms fire; while its elastic property seems to be considerably raised or increased by light; and in this association, together with oxygen, it forms the nitric acid. But whether light and heat are the same substance, and whether their different effects depend upon certain undetermined modifications, or whether that which is called light, in its combination with the bodies it meets with on its passage, is changed into what we term heat, on these questions we cannot decide with any degree of certainty at present; yet we are less liable to be involved in hypotheses, if we carefully separate the phenomena resulting from fire, and admit light and heat as two simple substances distinct from each other. Light is, according to the author, a constituent part of all inflammable bodies, and neither sulphur, nor phosphorus, the metals, &c. make any exception from this general rule; for the first-mentioned substance is composed of the base of sulphur and the cause of light, phosphorus of its own base and a similar cause, and the metals cannot be otherwise accounted for, because in them the cause of

of

of light is combined with peculiar metallic bases. Hence the base of sulphur forms combinations of a particular kind with the bases of metals; and such were the productions obtained by the Dutch chemists, who, in their experiments upon the disengagement of light, could not effect the combustion of sulphur, though they heated that substance with metals in various species of factitious airs.

ART. V. *A further Statement of the Case of Elizabeth Thompson, upon whom the Cæsarean Operation was performed in the Manchester Lying-in Hospital; in Addition to that published by Mr. Wood, in the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, Vol. V.* By CHARLES WHITE and RICHARD HALL, Men-Midwives Extraordinary, and GEORGE TOMLINSON and JOHN THORP, Men-Midwives in Ordinary, to that Charity. Quarto. 7 pages. Manchester. 1799.

ART. VI. *Letter to Mr. Ogden, Surgeon, Ashton-under-Line.* By W. SIMMONS. Folio. 3 pages. 26th November, 1799.

ART. VII. *A Letter to Mr. Ogden, on the Cæsarean Operation.* By G. TOMLINSON. Octavo. 20 pages. CLARKE, Manchester. 1799. Price 1s.

THIS case of Elizabeth Thompson having given rise to much altercation and uneasiness among the medical gentlemen of Manchester, and in that neighbourhood, and a diversity of opinions having prevailed, according as the passions of different parties were influenced, which unfortunately are not yet appeased, we wished to avoid giving any decided opinion upon the subject, and therefore confined ourselves to merely laying before our readers an abstract (see the tenth Number of our Review, p. 361) of the case, as published in the fifth volume of the Medical Memoirs. But having since been called upon by several of our correspondents, and had

various papers containing statements of the case sent to us, with the view of justifying or arraigning the conduct of the parties, we find ourselves, however unwillingly, obliged to notice it again.

The principal object of inquiry seems to be, whether the capacity of the pelvis was such as to admit the possibility of delivery by the natural passages; and whether the state of the woman's health was such that she might have recovered, if delivery had been effected that way. On the part of the operator both these questions are decided in the negative.

“ Upon a careful examination per vaginam,” he says (*Memoirs of the Medical Society*, vol. v. p. 464,) “ I found the pelvis so deformed at the superior aperture, that the space from the symphysis pubis to the os sacrum would only admit the points of my two fingers, and could not exceed an inch in diameter; and there was not in any other point, from the anterior to the posterior part of the superior aperture, a larger space than would admit the introduction of one finger, nor could I perceive the os uteri, or any part of the child, although I introduced my hand into the vagina.”

Mr. Wood says (*ibid.* p. 473,) “ From a review of the case there is great reason to suppose, that the death of the woman was not occasioned by the operation, but by the gangrene that had taken place in the cervix uteri.” The gentlemen, in the Statement before us, say, more guardedly, “ We consider the mortification in the neck of the womb as sufficient in itself to occasion the death of the woman.”

Soon after the publication of this case, a printed paper was distributed about Manchester by Mr. Simmons, surgeon in that town, arraigning the conduct of the gentlemen who advised and performed the operation. He also published, about the same time, some general observations on the Cæsarean section, which he considers as repugnant to the laws of God and man, and never to be performed during the life of the woman. “ If the children can be brought,” he says, “ by

no other expedient, we can only deplore the miserable sufferings of the patient, and the insufficiency of art to relieve them; and the disposal of life must be left to Him who gave it."

These remarks drew from the gentlemen who had seen the woman with Mr. Wood, and who had joined in opinion with him, that she could not be delivered by any other means than by the Cæsarean section, the pamphlet before us,—stating more fully than Mr. Wood had done the reasons on which they had founded their decision, and justifying the operation.

"After having examined the poor woman," they say, "their opinions were taken separately, and given in to Mr. Wood, without any previous communication with each other; when they were unanimous, that the pelvis was so much distorted, that none of them could perceive either the child, the os tinæ, or any part of the uterus; that nothing but the Cæsarean operation could give any chance, either to the mother or the child, and that no time ought to be lost in performing it. The pulse then beat 120 strokes in a minute."

And further on they add, p. 4, "she was afflicted with a violent diarrhœa, and was labouring under as excruciating pain as they ever knew fall to the lot of a human being."

It is proper here to observe, the woman had been brought that day in a cart nine miles, through a rough road, placed on a feather-bed, which was slung with cords in imitation of a hammock. Perhaps the quickness of pulse, extreme violence of pain, and diarrhœa, none of which seem to have been present before she set off, may in a great measure be attributed to the hurry and fatigue of the journey. Some benefit, therefore, might have accrued from deferring the operation until the morning *, which would have afforded opportunity for administering suitable nourishment, cordials, and opiates, with a view of quieting the hurry of the pulse, checking the diarrhœa,

* The woman arrived at the hospital at two o'clock in the afternoon, and the operation was performed at nine the same night, twenty hours from the commencement of labour.

appeasing the pain, and recruiting the strength of the woman. Perhaps also so much alteration might have taken place in that time, as that the os uteri, or even the head of the child, might have been perceptible.

“ The operation,” we are informed, “ was well performed, and borne, on the part of the woman, with great courage. There was no hæmorrhage to threaten life, or to impede her recovery; and what blood was shed in the cavity was taken up by a sponge.”

“ The child,” the narrators add, “ lay upon its right side, with its head in the neck of the uterus, resting on the fourth vertebra of the loins, and on the right ilium and pubis completely above the superior aperture. Whoever will be at the trouble of applying a foetal skull to this distorted pelvis, will be convinced that it could not take any other position; the head could not descend so low *as to be jammed in between the bones of the pelvis*; it could not even descend so low as the fifth vertebra of the loins; so that the cervix uteri appears to have been forced at every pain against the os innominatum on the right side and the fourth vertebra of the loins. *The natural shape of the head was not at all changed* from its round form to an oblong or sugar-loaf form; and it is impossible that it should have so changed, because the superior aperture was too narrow and too distorted to admit of its descending through any part of that aperture; and as the bones of the pelvis could not give way, the child's head, by every labour pain, would drive the cervix uteri against the solid bone, and produce an alarming degree of contusion, —thence the danger.”

“ The uterus, after the death of the woman, was taken out of the body, and the os tincæ was found dilated to about two inches and a half diameter; but still nothing could be discovered that could possibly account for her death, until it was cut open, when the inside being carefully washed with a sponge and warm water, a gangrene appeared quite round the inside of the neck of the uterus, rising higher in nearly a
circular

circular form in the forepart, where the child's head was believed to have pressed it against the elevated part of the ossa pubis. This mortification in the neck of the womb, which was totally unconnected with the incision in that organ, we consider as sufficient in itself to account for the death of the woman."

Some general observations on the Cæsarean operation follow, and instances are mentioned in which it has been said to have been successfully performed. "It should never, however," the writers properly add, "be resorted to, when milder means will answer; nor should the life of the child be put in competition with that of the mother, nor should it in any case be performed, without a consultation of the most eminent practitioners in the neighbourhood.

"Many women's lives have been saved by the crotchet in distorted pelves; but there are some cases where it cannot possibly be used; six having occurred in this town, within our knowledge, in which the delivery could not be accomplished by means of this instrument, and the Cæsarean operation not being had recourse to, all the mothers and children perished."

This pamphlet drew a second letter from Mr. Simmons, addressed to Mr. Ogden, who had seen the poor woman with him prior to the operation, and had advised her removal from Hazlehurst, the village where she lived, to Manchester.

"The further statement contains," Mr. Simmons says, "some new matter, which is in several points contradictory of the former." We will notice a few of these alledged contradictions, premising, that he admits, at least does not controvert the position, that the pelvis was too narrow to allow of the woman's being delivered with the crotchet; and only labours to establish, or prove, that she died in consequence of the operation, and not of the mortification of the cervix uteri, which he does not seem to think existed prior to the Cæsarean section being performed.

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“ In the original account no notice is taken,” Mr. Simons says, “ of the state of the pulse prior to the operation.” In the further particulars we are told, “ the pulse then beat 120 strokes in a minute; and that the intestines had been sufficiently emptied by a violent diarrhœa a little while before the operation,” which Mr. Wood had not mentioned. Mr. Wood says, “ the inferior part of the body and cervix uteri were evidently in a gangrenous state;” the Further Statement, “ that on cutting open the uterus, and washing the inner surface with warm water, a gangrene appeared surrounding the cervix uteri, and extending upwards,” &c. The excruciating pains the woman is said in the Further Statement to have suffered, were no other, Mr. S. thinks, than common labour pains. These and other trifling differences in the two narrations may easily, we think, be accounted for, without impeaching the veracity of the writers. The first account was given by Mr. Wood, and he inserted only such circumstances as seemed to him material to make the case intelligible. Some observations on this case having been circulated, animadverting on the conduct of the gentlemen who advised, or assisted at the operation, it seemed necessary to give a more full and complete account of the case; and as it was a joint concern, and was to contain such observations as they had each of them made, it is no wonder that circumstances are there noticed which had been omitted in the original Statement.

The treatment of the woman after delivery, the letter-writer thinks, was injudicious. He does not think the reasons for omitting to apply leeches, or making use of other evacuants, assigned by the attending surgeons, were sufficient; neither should the presence of diarrhœa have prevented, he says, their injecting emollient glysters, or using fomentations to the abdomen, to remove pain and tension. But as the gentlemen visited their patient three times a day, and are men of acknowledged skill in the profession, there can be no doubt

doubt all the known means were used that were likely to relieve her. The letter-writer does not think the pressure of the cervix uteri between the head of the child and the pubes of the woman could have induced the mortification, to which the death of the woman was attributed. But as the existence of the mortification is clearly stated, it seems immaterial to what cause that should be attributed. The remainder of the letter, containing arguments on the expediency or safety of performing the Cæsarean operation, on any occasion, is omitted, as irrelevant to the present question, which is simply, whether it was practicable to extract a full-grown foetus through the pelvis of the deceased.

The discussion of this question is not now left to a few individuals, whose passions may mislead their judgment, and induce them to give a partial or unjust decision. The pelvis has been seen by several of the most ingenious practitioners in the kingdom, and casts in plaster are taken from it, which any persons desirous of having may purchase. The united opinion of the gentlemen who have seen the real pelvis, as well as of those who have seen the casts, is, that it was absolutely impracticable, by any art, to extract a full-grown foetus through its cavity. We have also the declaration of the gentlemen attending, that, after a careful examination, neither the os tinæ, nor any part of the uterus, or of the child, could be perceived. There were no possible means then of delivery, consequently of saving the life of the woman or of the child, but by the Cæsarean section. We shall close our observations on this part in the words of Dr. John Sims, than which nothing can be more pertinent and judicious. "It is not improbable," he says, "that Elizabeth Thompson, the poor woman on whom the operation was performed at Manchester, survived as long as she would have done, if she had been permitted to perish undelivered, and suffered infinitely less both in body and mind. Human imagination can hardly conceive any thing more dreadful than the distressing

tressing anxiety of a woman in the pangs of labour without hope of delivery; the few hours of her existence, after the birth of her infant, must have been comparatively happy."

In reviewing this controversy, we have given our opinion with the strictest impartiality. We are by no means converts to the doctrine of Mr. Simmons, or imagine, that either the laws of God or man are violated by performing the Cæsarean section during the life of the woman. On the contrary, we believe there are cases in which it would be criminal to neglect or omit it. Neither do we believe the operation to be necessarily fatal, although, from the extreme caution used before we determine upon the necessity of performing it, it usually becomes so.

In the present case, the distortion of the pelvis was so great, that no hope seems to have been entertained by any one who saw the woman of the possibility of delivering by the natural passage. Mr. Simmons evidently considered it as of the very worst species, and, consistently with his doctrine, "left the care of the life of the woman to Him who gave it." Mr. Ogden, on dismissing the woman, sent a letter with her to Mr. White, desiring, if the Cæsarean section should be determined on, that he might be present; plainly evincing he considered that as the only mode by which she could be delivered, and that he was not then "persuaded, that the Cæsarean operation ought never to be performed *at all, in any case whatever*, during the life of the mother."

When the patient quitted Hazlehurst, Mr. Ogden says, "her pains recurred very regularly; her skin was cool, her pulse calm, and, abstracted from the obvious deformity of the pelvis, there was nothing to excite either alarm or suspicion." The observation we made, therefore, that the febrile and other distressing symptoms which afflicted her when she arrived at the hospital, were occasioned by the journey, seems confirmed, as well as the suggestion of Mr. Wood (Memoirs of the Medical Society, vol. v, p. 473,) "that if the operation had

had been performed earlier, and at the patient's house, she would have stood a great chance (a better chance, perhaps he should have said) of recovering." No reflection could be here meant upon Mr. Ogden, who certainly acted with the greatest caution, prudence, and humanity. The journey, in the manner it was conducted, could have done no mischief, if some part had not been previously much injured. The mortification which, on examining the body, was found to have taken place in the cervix uteri, unconnected with the incision made into that organ, shews what that injury was, and at the same time demonstrates that the life of the woman could not by any management have been saved.

Mr. Simmons having expressed a doubt, whether, in the accounts given by some early writers of the extirpation of the uterus, that organ had been really removed, or they were only polypous tumours that were extirpated, we may refer him to the last volume of *Medical Annals*, where he will find a case sent by Mr. Hunter, Surgeon, of Dumbarton, describing this operation. The patient recovered, and is now in good health. An abstract of this interesting narrative is given in the Fourteenth Number of our Review, page 139, &c.

We wish the statement we have made may have the effect of reconciling the misunderstanding that has unfortunately taken place among gentlemen, who have shewn they are possessed of talents which may be more usefully employed than in mutual recriminations on a subject where all of them appear to have acted upon the most laudable principle, that of doing good to the best of their power. If Mr. Simmons believes it would be criminal to perform the Cæsarean section on the living subject, it would certainly be so in him to do it, while under that persuasion; but as he has now an opportunity of satisfying himself, from an inspection of the pelvis, that it was impossible the woman could be delivered by any other means, consequently that her life must have been sacrificed, it must soften, we should think, his abhorrence of the ope-

ration to find that a stout and healthy child has been preserved by it.

Another pamphlet on this case has been just put into our hands, written by Mr. Tomlinson. As the profits of it are to be dedicated to the support of the young Cæsar, we wish we could recommend it to the profession; but as it only tends to keep up the flame of discord, without throwing any new light upon the subject, we must content ourselves with having announced it to our readers.

ART. VIII. *Der Gesellschaft naturforschender Freunde, &c.* i. e.

New Essays by the Society of Natural History at Berlin. Vol. II.

With eight plates. Berlin. Printed for the Society. 1799.

THIS volume contains biographical memoirs of those members of the Society who died previously to the publication of these Essays.

We are here presented with—I. A physico-mineralogical account of the gold and silver mines at Nazy Ag, in Transylvania, by Counsellor Stütz. This essay is designed by its author for a supplement to Born's Mineralogical Letters upon Transylvania and Hungary. II. Account of some very rare plants, by C. L. Wildenow. III. Description of the Vittaria, a newly-discovered genus of fern, by Olow Schwartz. In Smith's new classifications of ferns we find the genus Vittaria; but he enumerates not more than a single species, the *Pteris liniata* of Linnæus. Mr. Schwartz describes two more species, the *Vittaria lanceolata* and the *Vittaria ensiformis*, both of which are natives of the East Indies and the island of Mauritius. IV. Observations respecting electrical motions, and the manner in which they are affected by pointed bodies; upon thunder, lightning, and conductors. A Dissertation read by Professor de Luc to the Society. V. Mineralogical description of some fossils collected in the province of Sendomir, the

greater

greater part about Miedziara Gora and in its vicinity, by Lieutenant-general Baron L. von Geassau. VI. Geological observations upon the preceding article, by M. Karsten, Counsellor of Mines. VII. Inquiry into the fiery meteors observed in the atmosphere, by Baron von Halin. VIII. and IX. Of two copper ores found in Siberia, by J. J. Bindheim, Apothecary in Moscow. X. Of the Chalcedony of Siberia and Dauria, by the same. XI. Account of some observations and experiments, by Baron von Gersdorf. XII. Geological observations upon a part of the mountains of Schwartzwald, by J. F. Wildenman. XIII. Mineralogical description of the stratum of pit-coal found in some of the mountains of the Lingen territory, by Counsellor Karsten. XIV. Of the rotatory oscillations of a pendulous beam, by E. F. Chladni. XV. Account of some singularities in the iron ores of Stachenburg and Isenburg, by Mr. Cramer. XVII. Thoughts respecting the supposed alterations of the zones of the earth, by Professor Bode. XVIII. Chemical experiments and observations relating to the production of sugar, or syrup, from indigenous vegetables of Germany, by S. F. Hermstädt. According to these experiments, the different species of the acer (viz. the acer dasycarpum Erharti, and saccharinum of Linnæus) seem preferable to all other European plants, for affording a substitute for the sugar-cane. XIX. Extracts from letters.

ART. IX. *Medical and Chirurgical Transactions, Vol. II.*

(Concluded from page 286.)

16. *History of some Cases of Disease in the Brain, with an Account of the Appearances upon Examination after Death, and some genereal Observations on Complaints of the Head.* By Gilbert Blane, M. D. F. R. S. Read October 5, 1797.

THESE cases are peculiarly valuable, in so far as the accounts of the dissections are preceded by an historical detail

of the symptoms. The first case is that of a lady who had always lived full in point of eating, but been temperate in drinking.

“ About five years before her death, being then 64 years of age, she was suddenly seized with a fit of giddiness and dimness of sight, succeeded by acute pain in the forehead, which remained for some time. The indistinctness of vision continued for six months.

“ After this she was at intervals seized with giddiness, headach, and imperfect vision. She had a similar attack two years after the first, from which also she recovered to a certain degree. From this period she continued to be subject, from time to time, to the above-mentioned symptoms as long as she lived.

“ She for some time saw objects double, but the particular period of this could not be ascertained.”

On dissection, the following uncommon appearances were noticed :

“ The morbid appearance in this case which was most singular, and to which the symptoms of complaint seem chiefly referrible, was two bulbs about five eighths of an inch in diameter, filling up the hollow on each side of the sella turcica, which were evidently dilatations of the carotid arteries; and from their being filled with laminæ of coagulated blood, there could be no doubt of their being aneurisms of these arteries. The dissection was made by Mr. Hunter, assisted by Mr. Home, in the presence of Dr. Jenner and myself, and all concurred in opinion, that these tumours were aneurisms. The one on the left side was the largest. That on the right side communicated with the cavity of the artery, which was not the case with the other.

“ It is probable that one of the aneurisms arose five years before her death, occasioning the first attack described, and that the other arose two years afterwards, occasioning the other attack. It is also probable that it was between these

two

two attacks that she saw objects double from the unequal compression on the optic nerves. The brain differs from all the other organs of life in this respect, that it is much affected by partial compression, and compression has a greater effect upon it by its being enclosed in an unyielding bony cavity."

Case of a Tumour found in the Situation of the pineal Gland.

It would occupy too many of our pages to insert the whole of this case, and the history of it is so closely connected as not conveniently to admit of abridgment. The most prominent symptom was an excruciating headach, such as, to use the patient's own words, "he hoped nobody before had ever experienced;" it was chiefly confined to a spot on the occiput, to which he could put his hand, but occasionally diffused itself over the whole head. The brain being examined after death, exhibited the following appearances:

"The nates and testes did not appear distinct, and in the situation of the pineal gland was a hard firm tumour, of the size and shape of a nutmeg, about half an inch in diameter. Though in consistence it was like soft cheese, and cut smooth, yet it was not inorganic, for it had blood-vessels in its substance. It lay in the angle, as it were, formed by the two lobes of the cerebellum and the protuberances called nates and testes, a little on one side, that is, towards the right. The substance of the cerebellum appeared as if bruised or mashed by it, and the pulpy matter adhered to the tumour; but whether this was merely from proximity, or that they were united in substance, could not, from the softness of the cerebellum, be clearly ascertained. There was no pineal gland to be found; but whether this tumour itself was the pineal gland in a diseased state, or that by the size and pressure of the tumours, that small organ was destroyed and obliterated, must be matter of conjecture. As the tumour did not adhere to that part to which the pineal gland is attached, I am inclined to the latter opinion. The substance of the brain in general was rather of a firmer consistence than it is usually found.

found. In other respects the brain and cerebellum appeared natural and sound.”

The remainder of this paper is occupied with some very useful and ingenious pathological observations on the seat and treatment of various species of headach.

17. *Observations on Erysipelas.* By William Charles Wells, M.D. F.R.S. Read January 2, 1798.

Dr. Wells brings forward a number of facts which seem to put it beyond all doubt, that erysipelas is often a contagious disease; an opinion which, though it appears to have been pointed at both by Hoffman and Cullen, certainly has not hitherto been generally received. It will henceforth become part of the professional duty of medical men, to warn the friends of their patients labouring under this disease of the risk they run in too close a communication with them.

The Doctor is of opinion that the delirium and coma so frequently attending this complaint in no case depend on inflammation of the brain or its membranes. Indeed he seems in no point of view to consider it as at all an inflammatory disease, and of course condemns the practice of attempting to cure it by large evacuations, particularly of blood. The plentiful exhibition of Peruvian bark he seems to consider as indicated in all cases of this complaint, such at least as are met with in London. Dr. George Fordyce, he adds, has for upwards of twenty years been accustomed to give at St. Thomas's Hospital, a drachm of the Peruvian bark every hour in dangerous cases of that disease. As a local application, rags dipped in brandy are recommended.

18. *Observations on the Management of Cases in which the Face of the Child presents towards the Os Pubis.* By John Clarke, M.D. Read April 3, 1798.

Dr. Clarke here proposes a mode of altering the position of the child's head, when it presents with the face towards the symphysis of the pubis, by means of which considerable time and difficulty in labour are avoided. As this improvement

ment in the obstetric art tends to alleviate the unavoidable sufferings of human nature, a knowledge of it cannot be too generally diffused; we shall therefore insert the author's description of his mode of practice in his own words:

“ In a case where I had reason to expect some danger, I was desirous of knowing the precise position of the child's head, and whether it was in a situation which would admit of delivering safely with the forceps, if this should become indispensably necessary. I found the face turned towards the groin, and on endeavouring to ascertain whether the ear could be felt, I was obliged to make a firm pressure against the side of the head with my finger. In doing this it appeared to be moved a little. Aware of the great advantage which might arise to the patient if I could succeed in bringing the occiput to the pubis, whether she were ultimately delivered by nature or by art, I continued to make pressure upon the side of the head, till in the space of a few minutes the occiput was brought to the groin from the sacro-iliac joint of the same side; the consequence of which was, that, instead of the face, the occiput was born towards the pubis, and thus considerable pain and difficulty were avoided.

“ Reflecting upon the event of this case, I thought that the ready alteration in the position of the head might, in this instance, depend upon the pelvis of the woman being very large, relatively to the volume of the child's head, and that a similar change could not be produced by the same means in other cases of a similar presentation. I determined, however, to make a trial in the next case which should occur. Another case soon occurring, this practice was attended with equal success.

“ I have now met with fourteen cases, in thirteen of which the practice has succeeded; and as some years have now elapsed since the first case, I think myself fully authorized in recommending this method to be always pursued, when the face is found in the situation above described. A great deal
of

of pain, and much time, will be spared to the patient by this means.

“ The manner of effecting the change is, by introducing one or two fingers between the side of the head, near the coronal suture, and the symphysis pubis, and pressing against the parietal or frontal bone during a labour pain. When this is done, it will be found, in most cases, that the head yields to the pressure, till at length the occiput is brought to the groin. This being effected, the rest should be left to the natural efforts of the woman.”

19. *Additional Cases to illustrate Mr. Hunter's Method of performing the Operation for the Cure of the Popliteal Aneurism.*

By Everard Home, Esq. F. R. S. Read June 5th, 1798.

Four cases are here brought forward by Mr. Home, in which the mode of operating for the popliteal aneurism recommended by Mr. John Hunter was repeated with the most complete success. In a fifth, the patient was carried off by a violent hæmorrhage, occurring on the twelfth day after the operation. The unfavourable termination of this case is, apparently on good grounds, attributed to the patient's persisting in full living and his usual exercise to the time of the operation, as well as to an indulgence in the use of wine after it was performed; contrary to the remonstrances of his surgeon, who inculcated quietude and abstinence.

20. *The Case of Paunchoo, an Inhabitant of the Village of Gundassee, in Pergunnah Hannabad, and Province of Tipperah, Bengal.* By John Corse, Esq. Read June 5th, 1798.

Communicated by Dr. Baillie.

This is an account of an extraordinary enlargement of the integuments of the penis and scrotum, not originating from any apparent cause. It latterly attained the following enormous dimensions :

“ Length, nineteen inches; circumference at the middle, thirty-two; at the root, fourteen; and at an irregular prominence near the point, sixteen inches. The integuments

were

were rough and unequal, and had besides a few warty excrescences."

The history of the case is accompanied with an engraving, which exhibits an impressive idea of this very singular monstrosity. The reader will also find an engraving of an extraordinary sized penis in our Eleventh Number.

We have been informed by an eye-witness, that in Brazil it is not uncommon for the *scrotum* to grow so immensely large, that the patient is obliged to carry his burden before him in a wheel-barrow.

21. *An Instance of the entire Want of Hair in the human Body.*

Communicated by W. C. Wells, M.D. F.R.S. Read July 3, 1798.

The hair of the head, beard, eye-brows, eye-lids, pubes, and, in short, of every part of the body where hair is usually met with, in this person gradually disappeared without any assignable cause, when about 36 years of age. He has now remained some years in this state of nudity, without any injury to his health, or any of the functions of the body being at all affected.

22. *History of a Case of Aneurism cured by a natural Process.*

By Mr. John Major Wilson, House Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital. Dated February 19, 1798. Communicated by Dr. Clarke, and read September 4, 1798.

This case exhibits a striking example of the astonishing efforts nature will occasionally make to remove disease; but teaches nothing that there can be any hope of imitating by art.

23. *Experiments and Observations on the Growth of Bones, from the Papers of the late Mr. Hunter.* By Everard Home, Esq. F.R.S. Read October 4, 1798.

This paper is intended to answer two purposes: First, to shew that Mr. Hunter had instituted experiments which overturned the theory of Du Hamel, that the increase of the bones of animals depended on an elongation of their parts, and proved

that their enlargement depended on the addition of new substances to their ends and sides, while the old was at the same time removed by the action of the absorbents; and, secondly, to vindicate the right of Mr. Hunter to the discovery of this use of the absorbents, as well as to their mode of action in removing diseased portions of bone, in opposition to some mistatements lately published by Dr. Monro. Any partial extract would be liable to mislead; we must therefore refer those who are desirous of seeing the controversy fairly stated to the original paper.

24. *A Case of an extra-uterine Fœtus discharged by the Rectum.*

By Mr. Mainwaring, Apothecary. Communicated by Dr. Baillie. Read March 5, 1799.

This case does not materially differ from many others which have been published. The woman now enjoys good health; and her menstrual discharge continues regular, though in a diminished quantity.

25. *A Case of Pregnancy, in which the Ovum had become diseased, and was entirely filled with small Hydatids.* By Everard Home, Esq. F.R.S. Read April 3, 1799.

The nature of this case may readily be understood from the title. The following observations on the seat of the disease merit attention :

“ The hydatid structure of the placenta, as a disease to which that part is liable, is, I believe, very well known, and specimens of it are preserved in different collections of anatomical preparations. My attention in this case was directed to the investigation of the disease, and from the facts I have stated, it does not appear to be a change in the structure of the placenta, but a general affection of the amnion. When this disease takes place, the natural healthy actions for the support of the fœtus are so much impeded, that its growth is arrested. This evidently happened in a case published with an elegant engraving of the placenta and fœtus, by Dr. Denman; and when the patient does not early miscarry, the
fœtus

fœtus disappears ; and in all the instances where miscarriage has taken place in a more advanced stage of the disease, I believe no fœtus has been found."

26. *Case of strangulated Hernia, where the Operation succeeded after the Obstruction had continued eight Days.* By Henry Fryer, Surgeon at Stamford, on the 27th of January 1798. Read April 3, 1799. Communicated by Dr. Clarke.

There was nothing uncommon in the treatment of this case, but the author's comment upon it is judicious.

" This case illustrates very strongly, that hardly any period is too late in strangulated hernia to forbid the operation being attempted with some chance of success. But after all the ordinary means for reducing a portion of strangulated intestine in a hernial sac have failed, the sooner the operation is performed, the chance of success becomes proportionably increased."

27. *An Account of a singular Disease in the upper maxillary Sinus.* By John Abernethy, F. R. S. &c. Communicated by Dr. Baillie. Read June 4, 1799.

The following is a description of this very curious disease, in the author's own words. He seems to think that it admits of no remedy.

" The height of this nearly circular exostosis, and its dimensions, have been for about fifteen years gradually increasing. In the present state of the disease, I can compare its appearance to nothing which it so much resembles as a large tea-cup fastened upon the face, the bottom of which may be supposed to be open, and to communicate with the antrum. The dimensions of the cavity are as follows : the diameter of the cup formed by the circular edge of the bone is three inches and a half ; the depth from the middle to the cavity of the antrum is two inches and seven eighths ; the general height of the sides of the exostosis, measured from the bones of the face, is two inches ; the walls of this exostosis are not thick, and terminate in a thin circular edge. The common inte-

guments become extenuated as they approach this edge, they extend over it and line the inside cavity, where they are very thin, and of a delicate texture, as the skin becomes in some parts of the body; but when I first saw the patient they were perfectly sound. This exostosis now occupies, as may be supposed from its dimensions, almost the whole of one side of the face. It extends upon the nose in front, and backwards as far as the masseter muscle; at the upper part, it includes the very ridge of the orbit; and below it grows from the edge of the alveolar process. It is nearly two years since I first saw this patient, and the circumference of the diseased bone was then, in my opinion, much too extensive to admit of removal. A line that would separate the diseased from the sound bone, would have included the orbit and nose, indeed it would have comprised one half of the face."

28. *Some Observations upon the Combination of Medicines.* By G. Fordyce, M.D. F.R.S. &c. Read September 17, 1799.

On a subject concerning which such a variety of opinions are entertained by different practitioners, as the degree in which composition is useful in the administration of medicines, it must afford general satisfaction to be acquainted with the sentiments of this veteran in our art. The love of simplifying science, by which the youthful mind is readily seduced, with a view of shortening the road to knowledge, leads physicians, on their first entering on practice, to reject the heterogeneous compounds with which the pharmacopœias of former years abound. Dr. Fordyce candidly acknowledges, that at one period "he reprobated all mixtures of medicines having the same effect, conceiving that it would be much better to employ some simple medicine for each disease;" but more mature experience has led him to believe that this opinion is not well founded.

It is probable that the propensity to compound various drugs, which has pervaded all ages, and all nations, must have had some foundation in a general experience of its advantage.

Perhaps

Perhaps the framers of modern dispensatories have carried the principle of simplifying medicaments too far. In the chirurgical department they certainly have erred in this respect. Some of the more compound plaisters and ointments of the older writers will be found to produce effects on the morbid actions taking place in tumours, as well as ulcers, however difficult it may be to account for the operation of the ingredients of which they consist, which will be expected in vain from the more simple applications at present in fashion.

The whole of this paper being a chain of closely connected argument, it cannot, with justice to its merits, be abridged. The following is a specimen of the author's mode of reasoning; and we are sincerely convinced that every man, occupied in the practice of physic, will be improved by an attentive perusal of the whole.

“ All purgatives have not the same effect, though they all produce more frequent and more copious evacuations from the intestines than take place in perfect health. For example, natron vitriolatum occasions a purging much sooner after it has been exhibited than aloes or rhubarb. Again, aloes and rhubarb occasion an evacuation of feculent matter, while natron vitriolatum ordinarily occasions an evacuation of a watery fluid. If an evacuation is wanted sooner than would take place from employing aloes and rhubarb, and, at the same time, an evacuation of feculent matter, it evidently would be better to mix natron vitriolatum with aloes or rhubarb, than to use either aloes or rhubarb alone, or the natron vitriolatum alone; and such mixture is actually found to produce a quicker evacuation, and at the same time a more feculent one than the aloes or rhubarb, or the natron vitriolatum would have produced singly. It is therefore evident, that if such was the intention of the practitioner, it would be better for him to use a mixture of aloes and natron vitriolatum, or a mixture of rhubarb and natron vitriolatum, than it would be to use either natron vitriolatum, rhubarb, or aloes by itself.

“ This,

“ This, then, is a case in which it is evidently useful to mix two purgatives together instead of employing one of them alone, and therefore it is better in some cases to employ medicines mixed together, when their general operation is of the same kind.”

We hope the Doctor will complete this interesting investigation in the manner hinted at in his concluding paragraph :

“ I have thus shewn the ground on which I think that it is better to employ several substances, which have nearly the same effect, than one of them simply ; and as this paper has been drawn out to so great a length, I must defer for the present the cases where medicines possessing different qualities may be combined together.”

29. *The Operation of puncturing the Bladder above the Pubis, and through the Rectum: illustrated by Cases.* By Everard Home, Esq. F. R. S. &c. Read October 1, 1799.

“ Cases of suppressed urine,” the author observes, “ in which the operation of puncturing the bladder has been performed, have been few in number, and the histories of them are dispersed through a variety of publications. In these accounts a particular detail of the cases is seldom given, only the general results, so that we have less knowledge of all the circumstances which attend this operation than of almost any other in surgery. To make some additions to the records upon this important subject is the object of the present paper.”

The subsequent conclusions are the result of the author's experience :

“ When the puncture is made above the pubis, the canula which encloses the trocar is not to be removed, till the surrounding parts have been consolidated by inflammation, so as to prevent the urine in its passage out from insinuating itself into the neighbouring parts, for wherever the urine lodges, mortification takes place. Any advantage, therefore, which may arise from a more flexible instrument remaining in the bladder,

bladder, is more than counterbalanced by its not filling completely the apertures through the coats of the bladder, and allowing the urine to escape into the cellular membrane.

“ When the coats of the bladder are inflamed and irritated to a very great degree, a wound in them is not necessarily productive of any bad consequences; and when these symptoms are brought on by a retention of urine, all that is requisite for their removal is, not allowing any quantity of water to be accumulated in the bladder.

“ When the puncture is made into the bladder through the rectum, it is not necessary to retain the canula in the orifice beyond the time in which inflammation consolidates the sides of the wound, as there is no danger of the aperture closing up, till there is another passage made for the urine.

“ The wound in the rectum, whether it has a canula retained in it or not, does not allow the urine to escape till a sufficient quantity is collected to make the coats of the bladder act for its expulsion; and the quantity necessary for that purpose will vary according to the state of the bladder at the time.

“ The bladder, although contracted to a small size by long-continued irritation, almost immediately on being relieved from that irritation, has a power of recovering itself, and allowing of a much greater degree of distention; otherwise the bladder in the second of these cases, which had not for many years retained more than three ounces of water at any one time, could not, in four days after the last stricture was destroyed, have retained half a pint.”

Of the present volume, which this paper concludes, we have endeavoured to give such an analysis as may recommend it to the perusal of medical men in general; being of opinion that it contains a greater proportion of useful information, less alloyed with histories of marvellous cases introduced to excite wonder, sometimes we fear at the expense of truth, than any cotemporary publication of a similar nature.

ART.

ART. X. *An Essay on the Nature and Connexion of Heat, Electricity, and Light.* By ALEXANDER ANSTRUTHER, Esq. of Madras, Barrister at Law. Octavo. 61 pages. MURRAY and HIGHLEY, London. 1800. Price 2s.

THE pages before us are the produce of a few leisure months, chiefly afforded the author at sea, where he had neither philosophical books nor friends to assist him. Under such circumstances, it is presumed, the reader will be willing to grant a little indulgence for any unimportant defects they may be supposed to contain.

It would be inconsistent with the nature of our REVIEW, to enter particularly into the several topics discussed in the present pamphlet; but, upon the whole, we think Mr. Anstruther has discovered a share of ingenuity and reflection which do him credit, and claim the attention of natural philosophers. The principal design of the author is, to shew that heat and light are only different actions of electricity.

ART. XI. *Plain and useful Instructions for the Relief and Cure of Ruptures, &c. &c. &c.* By J. EDY, M.S.D. Duodecimo, 40 pages. SYMONDS, London. 1800. Price 2s. 6d.

THIS publication classes among those contemptible performances which we notice only for the sake of apprizing our readers that they are not worthy their perusal.

J. Edy, M. S. D. is a plodding mechanic, who, without possessing the smallest share of medical or surgical erudition, sets up as a critic and a rupture-doctor.

ART. XII. *The Clinical Guide; or, a concise View of the leading Facts on the History, Nature, and Treatment of the various Diseases that form the Subject of Midwifery, or attend the*
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pregnant,

pregnant, parturient, and puerperal States : intended as a Memorandum Book for Practitioners. To which is added, an obstetrical Pharmacopœia, divided into three Parts ; viz. Materia Medica, Classification, and extemporaneous Prescription. By WILLIAM NISBET, M. D. Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and one of the Surgeons to the Royal Infirmary ; now of London. Part III. Duodecimo. 348 pages. JOHNSON, London. 1800. Price 5s.

THE favourable reception given to the two former volumes of the Clinical Guide (see the Twelfth Number of our Review, p. 544) has encouraged the author to pursue the subject. The present volume contains the theory and practice of midwifery, and is, in fact, the substance of a course of lectures which he delivered at Edinburgh some years ago, with such additions and improvements as later observations have enabled him to make. If this should be approved, the author proposes giving a fourth volume on the diseases of children, which will complete his plan.

The work is divided into three parts, comprehending observations on pregnancy, parturition, and childbed. Previous to entering on these subjects, the author notices “ certain constitutional distinctions of the female habit necessary to the success of conception, and on which, perhaps, it essentially depends.

“ These consist,” he says, “ in a certain lax state of the simple solid, with an increased irritability of the nervous system.

“ The former of these has a particular effect on the state of the pulse, and the different secretions. Thus the pulse of women is always quicker and weaker than that of men, often to such a degree, as to equal that which denotes the presence of real disease. Hence, in all the diseases of women, we can judge with less certainty by it than in the other sex. Thus also, from the weaker circulation, the secretions, which de-

pend greatly on the force with which the fluids are propelled into the secretory organs, are more sparing, and the excretions diminished in the same proportion; so that a fulness, or plethoric state, of the sanguiferous system is necessarily produced. This plethora has been remarked by physicians as at all times attending the constitution of the sex; and the tendency to it is also particularly favoured by their sedentary life and greater confinement than the male. From the same source of laxity in the solids, the action too of the lymphatic system is much weaker than in the other sex. Hence they are more liable to those diseases which depend on diminished exhalation, particularly dropsy; and this disease is more apt to occur in them from simple debility, without any local affection, than in the other sex. A more favourable prognosis, therefore, may be here generally formed.

“ The increased irritability, again, of women is best displayed by the particular disposition or temper of mind characterizing the sex, as well as the diseases to which they are subjected.

“ ‘ Thus,’ as Dr. Cullen remarks, ‘ they are readily elated by hope, and as readily depressed by fear; passing easily and quickly from one extreme to the other; easily pleased, and prone to gaiety, and as easily provoked to anger and rendered peevish; liable from slight impressions to strong emotions, and tenacious of none.’ Hence the proverbial description of this constitution, as the *Varium et mutabile, femina quæ colligit ac ponit iram temere, et mutatur in horas.*”

From these positions the author draws the following deductions, which he thinks confirmed by general observation and consent:

“ First,” he says, “ it is agreed by all authors, that those women who are of the most relaxed and weakly habit are, by experience, found to be the greatest breeders.

“ 2. Where, from their situation in life, by reason of labour or other hard exercise, women become robust, and approach

proach the masculine character, they either have no children at all, or cease to have them soon.

“ 3. Where women are late of marrying, so that a rigidity of fibre has begun to take place, and the constitutional distinction to depart, they are seldom mothers, or their children are few.

“ 4. Where from debauchery, as in case of common prostitutes, the natural irritability is lessened, and the feelings rendered callous, barrenness generally ensues.

“ 5. Fat women, in whom also the senses are generally more torpid, have few, sometimes no offspring. In proof of this, we have only to remark the state of population in Holland, where this obesity in the female proceeds to a morbid degree.”

The inferences here drawn are by much too general. Fat women, as well as women who from hard labour have acquired a firm and healthy tone of fibre, being often very prolific; and, on the other hand, women of relaxed and delicate nerves are frequently barren, or have few children: of which innumerable examples might be produced.

The author next treats of certain local peculiarities in the female constitution, particularly of the phenomena of menstruation. He begins this part with examining the different theories that have been invented to account for the first appearance and recurrence of that evacuation, and finding them unsatisfactory, he attempts to explain them upon the principles he had laid down, viz. as arising from a lax state of the solids, aided by a particular structure of the uterus disposing it to plethora.

“ From the distention of the vessels of the uterus,” he says, “ we suppose that the ovaria, as being highly irritable, and sympathizing in a peculiar manner with the uterus, are excited in a certain degree by its distended state; which excitement communicating to the spermatics, and the other vasaular branches distributed in a particular manner upon
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their substance, an increased stimulus augments their action to that degree, that a rupture of their extremities occurs where connected with the veins, and where the resistance to their circulation is greatest, taking off the general as well as partial plethora of the system."

But as neither the rupture of the vessels of the uterus, or the excitement of the ovaria occasioning it, have been demonstrated, or are perhaps capable of being demonstrated, we can only look on this theory as another ingenious hypothesis, hereafter to share the fate of those the author has been at the pains of confuting.

The author next explains the manner in which conception is supposed to take place, agreeably to the theory now generally adopted, and then treats of the diseases attendant on the pregnant state. First, of those that occur in the early stage of conception, as sickness and vomiting, heartburns, longings, &c. These he accounts for as consequences of the enlargement of the uterus, and therefore necessary to the pregnant state. Indeed, he considers pregnancy as a disease, and defines it, p. 41, "a certain inflammatory disposition of the body; or nearly approaching to it, attended with an increased frequency of the pulse and other febrile symptoms." This stage lasts about three months.

The second period "consists," he says, "in the formation of pyrexia, or the proper febrile form, by an addition of certain characteristic circumstances to the state of the pulse mentioned. These consist in a manifest exacerbation of febrile symptoms, twice a day, corresponding to the natural increase of pulse; the evening exacerbations of which are most considerable, being denoted by flushing of the face, heat of the palms, thirst, disordered sleep, &c.; and this species of fever, though not just so violent in most cases, is similar to what is termed the hectic, or occurs, in other instances, of permanent local affection.

"The causes of this fever we refer to two heads: 1st, uterine
rine

rine irritation; and, 2d, plethora. Uterine irritation, indeed, in the present case, we find not sufficient for inducing inflammation; and no actual inflammation occurs during the first three months, when such simple irritation alone prevails; for, till the eighth week, no symptoms of turgescence can really take place, as that forms properly the first period, when a stop is put to the usual evacuation."

This is a formidable description of the consequences of pregnancy. We know, however, this febrile state does not necessarily and universally exist, and we have reason to believe never, to a serious degree, where the constitution is not previously vitiated.

On retroverted uterus, by no means a frequent complaint, the author says, "This disease is peculiar to pregnancy; and the period of it, at which it can only happen, is any time from the third to the term of the fifth month.

"In most women it occurs at this period in a slight degree; the first symptoms of pain, however, generally give an alarm to the patient; and if her situation at all admits rest, an horizontal posture, as giving ease, is what she naturally has recourse to. It never, therefore, in women of any fashion, occurs to a violent degree, and it is only amongst the poorer class, whose occupations do not admit the necessary care at this period, that it rises to a formidable height."

If this displacement of the uterus did really occur in a slight degree to most women, and was only prevented from becoming serious by the care women of condition are capable of taking to prevent it; among the poor, that is, among nine tenths of the community, it must be a very frequent disease.

"In Edinburgh," the author says, p. 55, "practitioners are daily called in where it occurs in a slight degree:" in London it is by no means of such frequent occurrence.

"For the cure of the disease," the author says, "two indications naturally arise; the first, to diminish the size of the tumour itself, preventing reduction, or to enlarge the dimensions

dimensions of the pelvis at its superior aperture, so as to admit, where still ineffectual, the success of the former; and second, to replace it in its proper situation.

“The former part of the first indication is answered particularly by lessening the distention of the contiguous organs. The organ chiefly distended is the bladder of urine, and the catheter therefore should be immediately employed. In its use, however, here, it requires a very nice attention to the situation of the parts: it must generally be introduced in a direction different from what is usually observed. Where the disease has arrived at a considerable height, the male catheter will be more properly employed. Several attempts will even be necessary before succeeding, and you may be even repeatedly foiled. It will often take place at last, rather as a lucky hit, than as a real proof of dexterity. As the chief part of the cure depends upon the evacuation of the urine, the other means you employ are to be considered rather as auxiliaries to it.

“When successful,” he adds, “and the urine is evacuated, the replacement of the uterus is to be attempted, and the method of reduction consists in simply placing the patient on her knees and arms, with the head reclined, and introducing the hand lubricated into the vagina, endeavouring to push the tumour above the hollow of the sacrum to its former situation. When once replaced, rest and the horizontal posture are to be particularly enjoined; the urine for some time is to be carefully taken off by the catheter, and the patient not even allowed to make the common natural efforts.”

When called early in the complaint, it will frequently be sufficient to empty the bladder two or three times in the day, and keep the woman in a recumbent posture. If the uterus, however, does not return to its natural situation, the means of reducing it recommended by the author must be had recourse to.

“But where the disease,” the author continues, “has gained, from

from the neglect of the patient, and unsuccessful attempts of the operator, its utmost height, and reduction cannot be effected, it next remains to inquire what methods are left to relieve the patient. The first suggested has been to attempt the introduction of a catheter into the os tinæ, which, being pushed through the membranes, may occasion, by their rupture, a discharge of the waters, and then abortion will ensue. It is indeed remarkable, and has been observed by all the writers on this disease, that no tendency to abortion naturally occurs, which can only proceed from the irritation being confined more to the fundus than to the os tinæ, which seems to lead somewhat to the theory of labour. Where the os tinæ can be reached with the catheter, when other means fail, it may be employed as a last expedient; but, at the same time, when we consider the slow progress that abortion frequently makes, from the greater part of the ovum, on which the enlargement of the uterus depends, continuing attached at this early period for long after the waters are evacuated, the patient may die of the disease before this expedient has time to succeed."

The next means mentioned by the author, is the section of the symphysis pubis, to enlarge the brim of the pelvis; but he properly adds, so much mischief would have taken place in the bladder and neighbouring parts before recourse would be had to this operation, that it would almost necessarily be fatal. Puncturing the bladder, or the fundus uteri, would be likely to be equally hopeless, he observes, for the same reason. He concludes his observations on this subject with the following judicious cautions:

"Too much attention cannot be paid in guarding against this disease arriving at any height. Its first symptoms are slight, and liable therefore to be neglected; but wherever, at this period of pregnancy, the least threatening of this kind occurs, the patient should be instantly confined to a horizontal posture, costiveness removed, and a suppression of urine, by the use of the catheter, timeously guarded against."

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The author then treats of various other complaints attendant on the state of pregnancy; pains in the abdomen, cramps, and convulsions, which, in general, are to be relieved by bleeding and other evacuants, opiates, and occasionally warm nervous medicines. Under the head of mixed diseases, occurring during pregnancy, he treats of costiveness and its consequence, the hæmorrhoids or piles, swelling of the legs, incontinence or suppression of urine, cough, and dyspnœa. These are described, and the cause of them explained in a rational and judicious manner, and appropriate remedies are recommended.

A more serious and less manageable class of diseases are next described, under the head of "accidental diseases."

"During pregnancy," the author says, "women are subject to those other diseases which may affect them at any other period; and their management also, from the state of gestation, is a point requiring particular attention. We shall offer some observations on a few that have been mentioned by authors as most commonly occurring." These are dropsy, fluor albus, hernia or rupture, nephritic complaints, jaundice, and lues venerea. They are, in general, to be cured or relieved by the same remedies usually resorted to in the unimpregnated state. We shall give the author's observations on the cure of lues venerea, occurring during pregnancy:

"Women, during pregnancy," he says, "are less subject, it has been remarked, to the febrile contagions; they may, however, be affected with a venereal taint. It has been alleged by authors, that the cure of the constitutional disease cannot safely be conducted at this period, as endangering a premature delivery; but in all the cases of this kind that I have had an opportunity to attend, I have found them more easily cured than at any other time, and a very little mercury is generally sufficient to effect it. It is the want of attention to this circumstance, that the natural state of pyrexia existing during pregnancy is favourable to the action of the remedy, and that the same quantity of mercury should not be used as

at another time, which has occasioned those hurtful effects commonly attending its use at this period. The mercurial fever, therefore, should never be carried here to any height; and if the practitioner understands the proper principles of treatment, there is no difficulty of curing it during gestation."

That a confirmed lues is more easily curable during pregnancy is what we should not expect, and does not accord with the experience we have casually had in this case. We know likewise that our opinion is supported by the practice of the surgeons in the Lock Hospital. The cautions recommended by the author in administering mercury, in this state, are, however, judicious; but the disease will generally, we believe, reappear after the evacuations consequent on parturition have ceased, and the cure must be begun *de novo*.

After giving some general instructions for the management of women in hæmorrhage occurring during pregnancy, and in abortion, or premature labour, its usual consequence, the author proceeds to treat of parturition, in the third division of his book. But we must reserve this part of the subject for our next Number.

ART. XIII. *Casim. Gomezii Ortægæ Novarum aut rariorum stirpium Horti regii botanici Matritensis Descriptionum Decades*. Quarto, with six plates. Madrid.

THE plants described here are, *Justicia parviflora*, from Mexico; *Verbena grandiflora*, of Cuba; *Salvia virgata amarissima*, from Mexico; *Calyxhymenia glabrifolia*, from Peru and New Spain; *Lithospermum distichum*, *Ipomœa verrucosa*, *heterophylla*, *Daluria ceratocaula*, from Cuba; *Solanum cymosum*, *Agave scabra*, from Mexico; *Gaura hexandra*, from Cuba; *Larrea glauca*, from Lima; *Cuscuta procumbens*, *Sesuvium revolutifolium*, *Stachys coccinea*, from Cuba; *Maurandia* (*Usteria* Cavan.) *semperflorens*, from Mexico; *Crota-*

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laria pumila, from Cuba; *Phaseolus angulosus*, from New Spain, *gibbosifolius*, from Cuba; *Robinia pendula*, from Peru; *Æschynomene miniata*, from New Spain, *ovatifolia*, from Cuba; *Trifolium involucratum*, *Eupatorium canescens*, from Cuba, *lucidum*, from New Spain; *Ageratum viscosum*, from Mexico, *punctatum*, *pedatum*, from Cuba; *Pascalía glauca*, from Chili; *Lorentia atropurpurea*, from Mexico; *Tagetes lunulata*, from Mexico; *Pectis multifida*, from Peru; *Anthemis globosa*, from Mexico; *Villanova bipinnatifida*, from Cuba, Mexico; *Viola lineata*, from Cuba, *verticillata*, from New Spain; *Croton ciliato-globuliferum*, from Cuba.

ART. XIV. *Collección de Papeles sobre Controversias botánicas*, de D. ANTON JOS. CAVANILLES.—*Collection of Papers on botanical Controversies*. By D. A. J. CAVANILLES. Octavo. 273 pages. Madrid.

THESE papers contain the author's reply to various unmerited attacks on him by Ortega, in the *Memorial literario de Madrid*; and by Ruiz, Pavón, and others; wherein Cavanilles has, in general, the advantage of his adversaries.

The following article relates to these controversies.

ART. XV. *Dissertation botánica sobre los Generos Tovaria, Actinophyllum, Arancaria y Salmia, y la Reunion de algunos que Linnæus publicó como distintos*. Por D. JOSEF PAVÓN.—*Botanical Dissertation on the Genera Tovaria, Actinophyllum, Arancaria and Salmia, and the Reunion of some considered by Linnæus as distinct*. By D. J. PAVÓN.

THE author of this useful production declares himself reconciled to D. Anton. Jos. Cavanilles, for whose literary talents

lents he seems to entertain a considerable degree of respect, and by no means accords to the allegations made against him in the *Prodromus Floræ Peruvianæ et Chilensis*.

MEDICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Art. 1. *An Account of a Case of Croup; with an Examination of the Appearances after Death.* Communicated by Mr. EDLIN, of Uxbridge, June 12th, 1800.

ON the 13th of April 1800, I was desired to visit M. J. a young lady about seven years of age. I found her apparently in perfect health; her appetite was good, her strength unimpaired, and pulse natural; but for some time past, within an hour or two after going to sleep at night, a disagreeable rattling or wheezing came on, but without any heaving of the chest or difficulty in her breathing; it lasted a longer or shorter time, till, by waking or altering her position, it gradually subsided.

The noise was sonorous, sharp, and appeared as if the air, on rushing through the larynx into the trachea, met with something that opposed it in its passage. It gave her no pain in fetching a deep inspiration, nor on external pressure; at times she had a slight husky cough, but it was so trifling, that had it not been for this noise it would not have been noticed.

On inquiring into the previous history of the case, I learnt that some months before she had been attacked with inflammatory fever, and after her recovery was sent into the country for the re-establishment of her health. It was not longer than three weeks or a month since this wheezing had been noticed; but now the noise was shriller, and lasted longer than it did at first.

From this account, I was apprehensive that during the former illness a deposition of coagulable lymph had taken place on the inner membrane of the trachea, which had formed adhesions, and occasioned the noise we heard: what led me to

suspect this, and to mention to her friends, that, if not removed, it would at some future period terminate in croup, was the recollection of a case I had formerly under my care; where, although the symptoms were different, yet this sonorous noise was present; and, after a violent fit of vomiting and coughing, a circular membrane, with a vein and artery ramifying upon its surface, was brought up enveloped in froth and mucus. After its expulsion, the difficulty of breathing was relieved, the noise ceased, the fever subsided, the child did well, and respiration has never since been obstructed.

With a view of imitating nature in her efforts to relieve herself, I sent the child a vomiting mixture, which was repeated three or four times in the course of a week, but without producing the least relief. A plaister of Burgundy pitch was then applied over the sternum; and afterwards a drachm of an ointment, composed of two scruples of tartrate of antimony in an ounce of wax ointment, was rubbed in every night in the direction of the trachea. In the course of a few days after this last application a considerable crop of purulent pustules made their appearance; and from that time the wheezing diminished, and subsided so much, that it was hardly noticed till the 6th instant, when she was attacked at school with a shivering fit; she soon after became hot and feverish, her breathing difficult and oppressed, and the sonorous noise returned. There was no doubt now left as to the nature of the complaint; I sent her an emetic and a purgative, and had her feet soaked in warm water; at the same time I thought it prudent to intimate, that it was likely to turn out an unfortunate case. Another practitioner was then called in, who attended her till the evening of the 7th, when I saw her again; at this time the breathing was catching, difficult, and laborious, there were great anxiety and oppression, a bloated countenance, which in a short time became of a purple hue; and in the course of an hour she died suffocated.

I requested permission to examine the trachea after her decease,

decease, and found it as nearly as possible to resemble the description given of the appearance of this disorder by Dr. Baillie, in his Treatise on Morbid Anatomy: the inner membrane was not so much inflamed as I expected to have found it, but it was lined for nearly two inches below the larynx with a layer of yellowish pulpy matter, which loosely adhered to it; at the same time the cavity of the trachea, for the distance I stated, was completely blocked up with a kind of pulp composed of pus and mucus.

On one side there was a passage large enough to admit a probe, that was not obstructed with this matter, but appeared to be principally clogged up with globules of air enveloped in froth: this passage had in all probability been the channel through which the air for some time must have passed for the purposes of life; and I have not a doubt but that the sonorous noise, which was noticed when she appeared in other respects to be in perfect health, was occasioned by the air rushing forcibly through this passage.

Not being allowed to make an opening into the thorax, the state of the lungs was not examined; but a director passed readily down the trachea as far as the bronchia, without meeting with any further obstruction.

Would the operation of bronchotomy have saved this child's life, if it had been carefully performed in the early stage of this formidable disorder?

Art. 2. *Observations on certain Peculiarities of the Cow-pox.*
By Mr. JOHN RING, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. *With additional Remarks by the EDITORS.*

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

I IN the paper which you did me the favour to insert in the last Number of your very valuable publication, I gave an opinion,

opinion, that certain eruptive cases were not cases of cow-pox. An instance lately occurred, where a lancet, armed with variolous matter, was used by mistake instead of a clean one; and, although it was dipped in vaccine virus previous to the operation, the variolous matter completely predominated. The pustule from which the vaccine virus was taken was too far advanced to justify the least hope of its superseding the small-pox. It was taken on the twelfth day; and the pustule had been repeatedly punctured before. This case was seen by several eminent men of the profession.

In the month of August I ventured to assert, that two morbid actions, in the same subject at the same time, were not incompatible. Two cases in the *New York Medical Repository*, by Dr. Tracey, confirm this opinion. I lately met with an instance where the cow-pox and measles were complicated. This case I shewed to Dr. Jenner, and to Dr. Marshall, of Gloucestershire, who, in the *Annals of Vaccine Inoculation*, is second only to Dr. Jenner. I also shewed the case to other medical friends. The measles appeared on the eighth day of the cow-pox; and the pustule was neither superseded nor retarded by that disease. The Rev. Mr. Jenner, nephew to Dr. Jenner, informs me, that he lately met with a case exactly similar.

The origin of the cow-pox is now clearly ascertained. Dr. Jenner lately sent me some matter which Mr. Tanner, of Rockhampton in Gloucestershire, produced by inoculating a cow from the heel of a horse; and also some from the dairy-maid who milked the cow. The former, being taken at a very late period of the disease, failed; but the latter took place, and the true vaccine pustule has been excited by it four or five times successively.

Dr. Marshall, of Stonehouse, whom I mentioned before, is now in this town: he is going to Naples to communicate the benefits of vaccine inoculation to that part of the world. From him I have also received cow-pock matter taken from
his

his own child, and furnishing another proof of the source from which the distemper is derived.

When Dr. M. was consulted about the dairy-maid of a farmer in his neighbourhood, he perceived four or five pustules on the back of her hand. Upon inquiry, it was found that the cow-pox was in the farm; and that the farmer's son, one morning when he had been dressing the heels of a horse, milked the cow in which the disease afterwards broke out, because she was too unmanageable for the milk-maid.

Mr. Rankin, a Surgeon, of Eastbourn, lately sent me a case of a disease, occasioned by matter from the horse's heel, greatly resembling the cow-pox; and I am informed by good authority, that Sir Christopher Pegge is possessed of evidence to prove the truth of the opinion advanced by Dr. Jenner.

This is no idle investigation. It tends to instruct mankind how to prepare an antidote for the worst poison; and a prophylactic for the most dreadful disease.

New Street, Hanover Square,

JOHN RING.

June 11th.

Observations by the Editors.

As the matter of the cow-pox, in which the variolated lancet was dipped, is represented as effete and dead, no conclusion of the superior energy or virulence of one species of matter over the other, can be drawn from this case.

Mr. Tanner of Rockhampton has produced, we find, the genuine cow-pox, by inoculating the teats of a cow with matter taken from the greasy heel of a horse; and Dr. Marshall has seen a young woman infected with the cow-pox by milking a cow supposed to have received the disease from a young man who had milked her soon after dressing the heels of a greasy horse. In the mean while, Dr. Woodville, whose accuracy in making experiments will no more be questioned than his veracity, informs us, he inoculated some cows with matter from the greasy heels of a horse, but that it did not
produce

produce the disease, nor induce any sickness or uneasiness in the animals. These experiments cannot, we allow, be put in opposition to the fact related by Mr. Tanner; for, in respect to Dr. Marshall's case, there might be a mistake. It might be merely a coincidence. The cow milked by the young man after dressing the horse's heels might afterwards fall sick with the cow-pox, and yet not be infected by the young man.

Many more experiments must therefore be tried, and facts adduced, before we shall think ourselves warranted to say, with the ingenious author of the letter, "the origin of the cow-pox is now clearly ascertained." We are, nevertheless, obliged to him for his communication, and doubt not that Dr. Jenner, and other practitioners, will repeat the experiment with the matter or discharge of the grease, and communicate the result of their observations to the public.

Art. 3. Notice of a Testimonial in favour of the Cow-pox, signed by several Physicians and Surgeons in London, June 1800.

AS many unfounded reports have been circulated, which have a tendency to prejudice the mind of the public against the inoculation of the cow-pox, we are informed that some of the most respectable physicians and surgeons in London have thought it their duty to declare their opinion—that those persons who have had the vaccine disease are perfectly secure from the infection of the small-pox, and that the inoculated cow-pox is a much milder and safer disease than the inoculated small-pox.

We are already in possession of the signatures of thirteen medical gentlemen, exclusive of those who have published treatises on the cow-pox; and in our next number we shall probably be able to lay a copy of their testimonial before our readers.

Art. 4. *Further Remarks on the infectious Nature of the Cow-pox.* By Mr. BLAIR, Surgeon of the Lock Hospital and Asylum, and of the Finsbury Dispensary, &c.

To the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

I LATELY transmitted to you a few cursory remarks, in hopes of calling forth the attention of medical men to a fair examination of the question, *Whether or not the vaccine disease be communicable by effluvia?* The cases which I then laid before the public, through the medium of your Magazine, seemed to countenance that idea; but, as the evidence in its support appeared to be equivocal and unsatisfactory, I took the liberty of suggesting that I was not willing to adopt this opinion. In another place, (See a note in the British Magazine, for April 1800, where the same cases are alluded to,) I have thus expressed my doubts: “Now the question is, *Were those pustules the real cow-pox, or the small pox, or the result of the vaccine and variolous fluids intermingled?* Medical readers will probably form different opinions on this subject, according as their minds have been previously biassed by prejudice or actual observation. For my own part, I incline to think there was originally some mistake or other in transmitting the matter from the cow to the first child: perhaps Dr. Woodville or Dr. Pearson used an unclean lancet; *i. e. infected with small-pox matter.*”

Since the publication of my paper, I have received letters from the two professional gentlemen who attended the cases in Caroline Court, assuring me that they are now fully convinced those children were affected with the small-pox: consequently, no person ought to assume that the eruptions which appeared in the two other patients were the effect of the vaccine virus, nor that the cow-pox is a contagious disease. I am desirous this information should be made known to your readers as early as possible, because several indiscreet practi-

tioners, having more zeal than experience, seem solicitous to persuade the world that the genuine cow-pox has often been communicated by effluvia. Upon strict inquiry, however, into the validity of the facts insisted on, I do not find the least ground to believe the assertions of those objectors; for their whole mass of evidence consists either of vague, unauthenticated, and idle reports, or of cases which no competent medical observer has attested.

I take the present opportunity of mentioning that, although certain persons deny the vaccine disorder to be a *permanent* preventive of the small-pox, there exist credible and sufficient proofs of the contrary. A letter now lies before me, in which a medical practitioner of Stroud-Water, in Gloucestershire, recites numerous cases of the complete unsusceptibility of the human constitution to the latter disease, many years after the casual infliction of the former. One of these cases is particularly deserving of attention, as it likewise proves that the cow-pock infection is not communicable a second time without great difficulty—perhaps not at all. “In a general inoculation in this town,” he says, “in the year 1790, a woman, 59 years of age, was twice inoculated for the small-pox, without any other effect than inflammation of the arm—considerable after the first, but slight after the second inoculation. She informed me that, about *forty years before*, living at service in a dairy, she, with other servants, caught the cow-pox by milking the cows; that, some years afterwards, being at service in another dairy, all the servants caught the distemper from the cows, *except herself, who then escaped infection.*”

The advantages which are said to result from the new inoculation have not been announced to the public on slight grounds; since there have been, according to the best intelligence I can obtain, not less than *fourteen thousand* persons inoculated for the cow-pox. A friend has just now written to me, that above twelve hundred have been lately inoculated at Hadleigh, a small town in Suffolk; and there is reason to suppose

suppose many hundreds more, in other parts of the kingdom, may have escaped my inquiries.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Great Russel Street, Bloomsbury,

Your humble servant,

20th June 1800.

WILLIAM BLAIR.

Art. 5. *Miscellaneous Information, on the Cure of Epilepsy, the Efficacy of Cold, the Treatment of Dysentery, the Cure of Croup, the Number of Physicians, &c. at Vienna, a Legacy to the Hospital at Copenhagen, and medical Projects and Discoveries.*

I. A BAD CASE OF EPILEPSY CURED WITH ZINC.

DR. Mathew Guthrie, physician in the service of Russia, communicated the following fact to Dr. Duncan, of Edinburgh, in a letter dated June 1799. A young gymnasyst, aged 16, was taken to the hospital of the Imperial corps of noble cadets, labouring under a most alarming epilepsy. The paroxysms returned four times in twenty-four hours, with wonderful violence; whilst each fit was accompanied by a most distressing tetanus, that drew the patient's head backwards in a frightful manner, and rendered it impossible to keep him in bed, without using such violence as threatened the dislocation of some member: so that they were obliged to let him roll about on the floor of a room spread with mattresses.

As this disease was of so violent a nature, Dr. Guthrie formed the resolution of giving the flowers of zinc with empirical boldness; and, after ordering ten ounces of blood to be taken from the arm, as the youth was plethoric, he gave him eight grains of flores zinci the first day, with conserve of roses, and augmented the dose by four grains every fourth day, till the thirty-second from the attack; when it amounted to two scruples, or forty grains, which he took for a month consecutively, till every vestige of the disease was gone.

No other medicine was found necessary during the whole cure,

as the zinc kept his body sufficiently open : and it was highly interesting to observe, that, in proportion as the dose of the sedative mineral was augmented, the disease gradually diminished in frequency and violence ; first to three fits a-day, then to two, next to one, till, on the thirty-second, the dose of two scruples completely overcame the spasms, and the disease finally vanished, never to return, as he has now been two years without a single fit.

The distressing tetanus diminished likewise in violence with the paroxysms of epilepsy, though it never totally left the young patient, till the whole ceased together at the epoch mentioned above ; “ although,” says the Doctor, “ I thought it prudent to continue the large dose of two scruples for a whole month, to ensure the permanence of the cure, as no disagreeable consequences ever attended the exhibition of the zinc, except a little trifling nausea towards the beginning, which went off without giving us any trouble. I must not forget to remark, that the dose was always divided into two equal parts ; one to be taken in the evening, the other in the morning.”

2. THE EFFICACY OF COLD IN MADNESS.

Dr. G. G. Brown, of Bath, has communicated the following account of the good effects of cold in apoplexia mentalis, or delirium sine febre.

“ Within the period of these last ten years, I have met with five cases in the course of practice. The two first cases were abandoned by two very eminent physicians, who have already done ample honour to their profession, and for whom I entertain the highest regard. Two more cases were attended by me alone ; and two most respectable physicians were witnesses to the subsequent mode of treatment in the fifth case. After a failure of the most approved medicines and practice, the application of cold water to the head, assiduously persevered in for many days, performed the cure. I well know
4 that

that this is an old species of practice, and also that it has often proved unsuccessful: this, however, I attribute in a great measure to the manner of using it, and likewise to the want of perseverance in it. The method I pursued in the first four cases was, by winding an handkerchief round the head, and keeping it continually wet with a sponge dipped in cold water, until it produced a shivering fit: it was then desisted from, for about an hour, more or less, and reapplied as before. After the first twenty-four hours, there was no inconvenience felt in having it always kept round the head. Between thirty and fifty hours from the commencement of the application, sobbing and sighing came on; which have hitherto proved the criterion of the incipient return of rational ideas. This being effected, the vitriolic acid, alone or combined with the cinchona, in conjunction with the cold application, have uniformly perfected the cure. In the first and fifth case, the application was not confined to the head, but extended along the course of the carotid and subclavian arteries. From seven to fifteen days, where the delirium had been of considerable standing, have been the extent of this mode of practice; although I should not have hesitated continuing it a much longer time, had it been found necessary. Perhaps I shall be induced, at some future period, to deliver my sentiments more fully on this subject, but could no longer withhold from the public a remedy I have found so efficacious in so dreadful a malady. I have also reason to believe that it will be found equally successful in some other diseases, not only in the head, but the trunk of the body.

“ *P. S.* Two patients of the five are since dead; the first, a gentleman at the age of 75 years, and seven years after the cure was performed; the second, a lady of 50 or thereabouts, between three and four years after, of pneumonia. Two are at present living in perfect health, and the fifth in a state of convalescency. Delicacy only conceals their names, being all of respectability. The cause of the gentleman's death
is

is unknown to me, from his having removed to a distance from his place of residence, and from my having no connexion with the medical gentleman in attendance when he died."

3. DYSENTERY CURED WITH VINEGAR AND SEA SALT.

Several medical gentlemen in North America have met with very great success in the treatment of dysentery and scarlatina anginosa, by employing a mixture of vinegar and sea salt, in the following manner: Saturate any quantity of the best vinegar with common marine salt; to one large table-spoonful of this solution add four times the quantity of boiling water; let the patient take of this preparation as hot as it can be swallowed, one spoonful once in half a minute, until the whole is drunk: this for an adult. The quantity may be varied according to the age, size, and constitution of the patient. If necessary, repeat the dose once in six or eight hours.

4. POLYGALA SENECA USED IN THE CURE OF CROUP.

In a letter from Dr. John Archer of Harford county, Maryland, to Prof. Barton, he makes the following observations on the use of the polygala seneca in the cure of croup.

"The cure, in my opinion, consists in the separation or solution of the membrane or slough that is formed in the trachea. For this purpose, I have, in a great many instances, found a decoction of the seneca a most powerful remedy in the cure of this disease; and I am happy to tell you, that I believe it may be depended on. I make a strong decoction of the root in the following manner:

"R Rad. senec. in pulv. crass. $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{ss}$. Coque in Aq. fontan. $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{v}\mathfrak{i}\mathfrak{i}\mathfrak{j}$ ad $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}\mathfrak{v}$.

"Of this I give a tea-spoonful every half hour, or hour, as the urgency of the symptoms may require; and, at intervals, a few drops to keep up the stimulus, until it either acts as an emetic or cathartic. I then repeat it, in smaller quantities,

tities, so as to preserve the stimulus of the seneca constantly in the mouth and throat.

“ The stimulus of the seneca in the mouth and throat is very diffusive. Its effects extend to the upper part of the trachea; and, if the formation of the membrane has recently commenced, tend to its solution; but if the membrane is formed, and its texture has become more firm and adhesive, the seneca penetrates to the trachea, and occasions an increased secretion, which, being more liquid and less adhesive than the membrane, disposes it to be more easily separated and broken; so that it may be detached and discharged by the efforts of coughing, or by vomiting, when the seneca acts as an emetic. When this takes place, a cure is reasonably to be expected; and this appears to me to be the operation of the seneca in the cure of this disease.

“ To be more particular. The method in which I proceed is according to the state of the disease when I am called. If it is a recent attack, I give a tea-spoonful every half hour, or hour, and a few drops at intervals, so as to keep up a constant stimulus; and in this way I have removed the complaint: but if more advanced, and the breathing more difficult, with a peculiar harsh or shrill sound, like air forcibly drawn through a small aperture, attended with a retraction of the upper part of the abdomen under the cartilages of the ribs, I then give calomel freely and frequently, and rub mercurial ointment on the throat and adjacent parts, so as to affect the glands of the throat and mouth as quickly as possible. This I do that the mercury may co-operate with the action or stimulus of the seneca, and thereby hasten the separation of the membranous substance formed in the trachea.

“ I do not conceive that the seneca acts altogether from its emetic, or expectorant, or diaphoretic powers, otherwise other emetics and diaphoretics would cure the disease; but chiefly from its stimulant effects, and the extension of that stimulus into the trachea.

“ In

“ In the above method, I have succeeded in the cure of the croup even beyond my most sanguine expectations.

“ This last fall, I have had more cases of the croup than I have ever known in our part of the country. In the majority of these the decoct. senec. has succeeded without the mercury; and probably would have done so in all, had I thought it prudent to risk the event.”

5. MEDICAL NEWS.

The Number of Physicians, &c. at Vienna.

From a list lately published by the university of Vienna, it appears, there are two hundred and fifty-nine doctors of physic, and two hundred surgeons, dentists, oculists, &c. in that city.

A Legacy to the Hospital at Copenhagen.

A gentleman at Copenhagen, lately deceased, has left 120,000 crowns to the great hospital of that city, to be received as certain legatees, to whom the interest of the money is left as annuities during their lives, shall successively die.

6. PROJECTS AND DISCOVERIES.

The Art of preparing Acorns as a Substitute for Coffee.

The Academy of Petersburgh have discovered a method of preparing acorns so as to make them a convenient substitute for coffee.—The acorns are first peeled, and then roasted until they acquire a brown colour; while they are hot, a small portion of fresh butter is added; they are then briskly shaken together, that the butter may penetrate through the acorns, when the process is finished.

The Art of making Sugar from Turnips.

From experiments made by the commissioners appointed by his Majesty the King of Prussia, at Berlin, to examine into the process for making-sugar from turnips, (runkelribe,) it appears that the sugar made from those roots, though less expensive, is equal to that produced from the cane, and that the residue may be manufactured into a liquor little inferior to rum.

rum. His Majesty therefore proposes establishing sugar-works at Alvensleben in Magdeburg, where the species of turnip best adapted for the purpose is found in great abundance. M. Achard, who has brought the manufactory to its present state of perfection, receives a premium proportioned to his labour.

An Hydrophobic Hospital at Paris.

An hospital is projected at Paris for the reception and treatment of hydrophobic persons; wherein it is also proposed to admit rabid dogs, for the purpose of ascertaining the symptoms of madness, &c. and the possibility of curing that horrid disease.

Art. 6. *Monthly Catalogue of new and intended Publications.*

NEW BRITISH PUBLICATIONS.

1. **O**BSERVATIONS on Mr. Simmons's Detection; with a Defence of the Cæsarean Operation, derived from Authorities; a Description of the Female Pelvis; an Examination of Dr. Osborn's Opinions relative to Embryulcia; and an Account of the Method of Delivery by Embryotomy: illustrated by numerous Engravings. By JOHN HULL, M.D. &c. &c. Octavo. 473 pages. London, Bickerstaff. Price 9s.

2. The Fifth Part of Dr. THORNTON's magnificent Illustration of the Sexual System of Linnæus; containing Plates of the blue Passion Flower, Cupid inspiring the Plants with Love, and vegetable Preparations from the Museum of John Heaviside, Esq. is just published by H. D. Symonds, Paternoster Row. Price 1l. 5s.

3. The Philosophy of Medicine, or Medical Extracts on the Nature of Health and Disease; including the Laws of the Animal Economy, and the Doctrines of Pneumatic Medicine. By ROBERT THORNTON, M.D. &c. &c. Five volumes. Octavo. Fourth edition, with plates. London, Symonds. Price 3l.

4. A Natural History of the Insects of India and the Islands of the Indian Seas. No. I. London, Rivington.

5. Plants of the Coast of Coromandel, selected from Drawings and Description, presented to the Court of Directors of the East India Company. By W. ROXBURGH, M.D. Folio. London, Nicol. Price 1*l.* 1*s.*

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44. Ideen zu einer Philosophie der Natur; *i. e.* Suggestions towards a Philosophy of Nature. By F. W. J. SCHELLING. Two volumes, 8vo. Leipzig. 1799.

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47. Über das Ausziehen Fremder Körper aus dem Speise Ranale und der Luftröhre, von J. G. ECKHOLD, der Medecin und Chirurgie Doctor, &c. *i. e.* On the Extraction of foreign Bodies from the Œsophagus and Trachea: by J. G. ECKHOLD. Quarto. 172 pages, with five plates. Wove paper. Price 18s. Kiel and Leipsig. 1799. Imported by Geisweiler.

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53. *Journal der Pharmacie für Aerzte Apotheker und Chemisten.*—Journal of Pharmacy for Physicians, Apothecaries, and Chemists. By TROMSDORFF. Vol. VII. Octavo, 422 pages.

INTENDED PUBLICATIONS.

54. M. F. J. GALL, at Vienna, has finished a very elaborate work on the Functions of the Brain, and the Possibility of recognising the several Faculties and Propensities of the Mind, from the Construction of the Head and Skull. Mr. Geisweiler, Parliament Street, has in his possession a part of the manuscript of this work, with several drawings, executed in the most correct and elegant style, deserving the attention of the curious. We are informed, that the author intends to publish this work both in England and Germany at the same time.

55. M. LINC, Professor of Botany and Chemistry at Rostock, having lately travelled over Portugal in company with Count Hofmansegg, is about to publish, as part of the fruit of his labour, an Account of the vegetable Productions of that Country.

56. The late Dr. BLACK of Edinburgh is said to have left
his

his writings on chemistry in such perfect order, that his heirs intend to publish them without delay; and will prefix an account of his life and studies, so as to ascertain the full extent of his claims to the high rank he deservedly held in the republic of literature.

57. Dr. CHRISTOPHER GIRTANNER (who died at Göttingen on the 17th of last month) was, at the time of his decease, printing a Fourth Edition of his celebrated work on the Lues Venerea; an English translation of which, we understand, is preparing for the press, accompanied with Notes, by Mr. BLAIR, Surgeon of the Lock Hospital, &c.

58. A complete History of the human Pelvis, including that of both Sexes, with all its Varieties and Changes, in the different Periods of Life, is preparing for the public by Dr. JOHN HULL, of Manchester.

59. Dr. THORNTON has announced, that his Illustration of the Sexual System of Linnæus will be completed in Fourteen Numbers, one of which is to make its appearance every three months. The *Sixth Part* will be published in August.

60. A work is said to be in the press, containing arguments against the introduction of the cow-pox, which will include communications from various practitioners in London and in the country.

61. Mr. BROWN, Surgeon, is preparing for the press an anatomical work in two volumes, taken chiefly from a manuscript copy of the late Dr. Hunter's lectures; to which will be added, an account of all the principal discoveries and improvements made in that science since the Doctor's time.

* * * As this department of our Magazine must be highly interesting and useful to those readers who wish to become acquainted with the progress of medical literature in different parts of the world, we shall be greatly obliged to any of our learned friends who, from time to time, may assist our endeavours to render the Catalogue of new and intended Publications as complete as possible.

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